FOR A QUARTER OF A CENTURY...THE #1 PRICE GUIDE!

OVERSTREET

COMIC BOOK MONTHLY

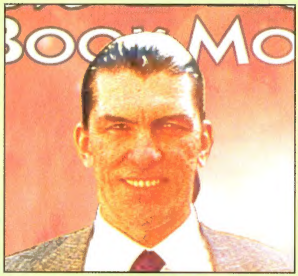
No. 4
August
1993

JIM SHOOTER CREATES THE NEW DEFIANT UNIVERSE!

It's an all-time record!
SPIDEY brings $40,000!

08
42852 82421 1
$3.95/4.95 CAN

THIS MONTH



© Enlightened Entertainment

JIM SHOOTER
Rebel With A Cause

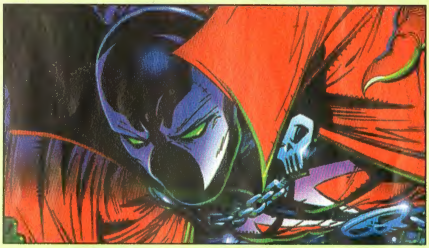
Jim Shooter explains the creation of a whole new universe and the reason why Defiant Comics may be the most novel approach to comics...ever!

Pg 14

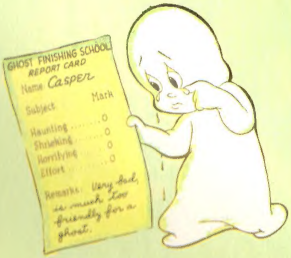
Valiant Vs. Image

CBM Pricing Editor, Michael Naiman, compares the values of 6 hot books from 2 hot companies!

Pg 10



© Todd McFarlane



© Harvey Comics

Does Casper Have A Ghost Of A Chance As The Newest Hot Collectible Of The '90s?

Some Collectors predict yes!

Pg 150

ON THE COVER

Jim Shooter poses with the two stars of Plasm, Lorca and Sueraceen.

© Enlightened Entertainment

OVERSTREET COMIC BOOK MONTHLY™ Number 4 August 1993

FEATURES

CBM News **7**
An all-time record price for Spidey's 1st appearance!

Jim Shooter **14**
Rebel With A Cause by Jan C. Childress

A G-g-g-ghost **150**
Casper, the friendly collectible, by Mark Arnold

COLUMNS

Adventures Into Weird Words **8**
Pat Calhoun explores the pre-code and pre-hero worlds of Strange Tales!

4 Color 4 Casts **10**
Is investment in new books worth it? by Michael Naiman

Comics in a Flash **146**
The real scoop on pre-Valiant Solar by Tony Starks

CBM Gallery of Greats **156**
Un-Timely covers of the legendary Alex Schomburg by Steve Gentner

DEPARTMENTS

Letter From The Editor **6**

Overstreet Price Advisory Network **20**

What's Hot & What's Not **23**

Monthly Comic Book Price Guide **60**

CBM BICEL 40 Survey **118**

CBM MarketWatch **119**

Trading Card Price Guide **120**

CBM Convention Listings **130**

Marketplace Mail **137**

Overstreet's *Comic Book Monthly* (Formerly Overstreet's Comic Book Marketplace) copyright © 1993 Robert M. Overstreet, All rights reserved under International and Pan-American copyright conventions. The information in this publication is protected under U.S. copyright law. Absolutely no part of this publication may be reproduced in any form, mechanically, photographically, and/or electronically, without prior written consent of the publisher. Inquiries (including advertising) and letters to the editor should be addressed to: OVERSTREET PUBLICATIONS, P.O. Box 9610, Cleveland, TN 37320-9610 or call (615) 472-4135. 10 issue subscription rate: $24.95. Canadian: $64.95 in US funds. Overseas: $99.95 in US funds. All articles and columns are the express opinion of the individual contributing artists and authors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *COMIC BOOK MONTHLY*, its staff, or its advertisers. All comic characters, names, logos, trademarks, and symbols depicted and described in articles and other editorial materials are owned and copyrighted by their individual companies. Advertising and subscription rates may change without notice. Printed in USA.

Issue Number 4, August 1993

RECORD BREAKING SILVER AGE PRICES... AN AMAZING FANTASY?

You're kidding!!! $40,000 for a Silver Age key book? This was the usual reaction of many of the collectors I spoke when they heard the news of the record shattering prices set at the Sothebys auction. But when you analyze just a few market factors, this event actually makes perfect "Marketplace" sense.

The first of these factors is the huge population of baby boomers who are old enough to have purchased late fifties and early sixties comics directly from the stands. This group contains many economically stable professionals who have enough disposable income to to be able to pay (pretty much) whatever it takes to get outstanding copies of the books they purchased as a child. Many who are trying to account for these record Silver Age prices do not fully understand how compelling the strong nostalgic link between collectors and their childhood comics really is.

The second factor is the fact that Marvel's character, Spider-Man, has emerged as one the most important characters in Comic book history. When any fictional character (from any media I might add, not just comics), reaches the level of one of the most popular, globally known, cultural icons, the characters first appearance is bound to hit stratospheric values... eventually.

The third element is condition. Amazing Fantasy #15, with its brown cover inks and tenuous printing and paper quality, is notoriously difficult to find in truly high grade. It's no secret that the high end of the comic book marketplace is just full of "condition freaks", who seem eager to pay a substantial premium for ultra high grade.

The Fourth consideration is the continuing schism between collectors who only want unrestored books and the rest of fandom. The former are more and more willing to pay a premium for "untouched" key books, as they get more and more scarce.

The final factor is pedigree. The White Mountain collection has been one of the best kept secrets in the hobby for several years now. With the record sale of the White Mountain copy of AF#15, the proverbial cat is out of the bag. Like the historic high grade Golden Age collection called Mlle High, the Silver Age White Mountain collection will take its rightful place as the best known source of high grade silver.

When you consider all these factors, it's easy to see why the record setting sale was inevitable. Even the White Mountain Copy of Fantastic Four #1 sold at the auction set a significant milestone in marketplace history.

Like the Sothebys auction of 1991, The auction of '93 made history for all us and its affect will be felt at every strata of the hobby.

But don't catch your breath just yet, because the ripple effect of this event will be changing fantasy to reality for a long time to come!

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Gary

Gary M. Carter

OVERSTREET COMIC BOOK MONTHLY

PUBLISHER
Robert M. Overstreet

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Gary M. Carter

SENIOR RESEARCH EDITOR
Jeff Overstreet

CONSULTING ART DIRECTORS
Joe Sikoryak
Lisa M. Carter

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Tony Overstreet

PRICING EDITOR
Michael Naiman

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Carol M. Overstreet

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER
Todd M. Hoffer

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pat S. Calhoun

SUBSCRIPTIONS MANAGER
Donna Anderson

FINANCIAL ANALYST
Detra Johnson

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT
Kim LaRue

DESIGN ASSOCIATES
Jody Sims * Michelle Humphrey
Paul Putnam * Steve Burton

PRODUCTION ASSOCIATES
Steve Herndon * Tim Harrell
Skeeter McMurtry * Bernadette Eichorn
Carol A. Jones * Lyle Jumonville

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATES
Eva Ditler * Betty McChesney
Mick Rabin * Tony Starks

MAGAZINE CONSULTANT
Bill Howard

TRAVEL CONSULTANT
Jan Overstreet

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS & ARTISTS
Erik Andresen * Mark Arnold
Steve Beery * Pat S. Calhoun
Jan Childress * Shannon Gallant
Steve Gentner * John Hauser
Roger Hill * Bill Howard
Todd McDevitt * Michael Naiman
Warren Reece * John Snyder
Tony Starks * Gray W. Tracer
Nicky Wright

1ST SPIDEY BRINGS $40,000!

Record Set for Silver Age Comics

NEW YORK - With all the force and subtlety of an uppercut from the "Man of Steel" himself, the Silver Age of comics and comic art arrived with a crash! and a pow! this past Saturday, June 26, at Sotheby's 3rd annual auction. Setting records in practically every major category, Silver Age comic collectibles commanded astounding prices from a stunned, and clearly enthusiastic audience, at Sotheby's corporate headquarters on the upper east side of Manhattan. In doing so, the Silver Age served notice to their Golden Age counterparts, that - in an alchemist's best dream - silver had become pure gold.

Leading the way was the White Mountain copy of *Amazing Fantasy* #15, which features the first appearance of your friendly neighborhood webslinger, the Amazing Spider-Man. In an amazing display of white knuckle courage, an intrepid phone bidder traveled where no person has dared to travel before, purchasing the #15 for **$34,000!** With a 15% buyer's premium and sales tax tacked on for good measure, our winner will part with well over $40,000... shattering the high end pre-auction estimate of $17,000, and easily **setting the record for the highest amount ever paid for a Silver Age comic.**

But the *AF* #15 wasn't alone. Not by a long shot. Following hot on its heels, a Very Fine copy of *Fantastic Four* #1 from the selfsame White Mountain Collection fetched a tidy $27,600* with buyer's premium. And a NM 90 copy of *Tales Of Suspense* #39, the first appearance of Iron man, went for $5,436.

Silver Age DC comics weren't represented as deeply as the Marvel White Mountain runs, but more than made up for it with spectacular prices paid for original art. A two page Justice Society Of America pin-up by Murphy Anderson set a record for Silver Age interior art when it sold for $9,200. The Carmine Infantino and Joe Giella original cover art to *The Flash* #120 fetched $10,350 - nearly three times it pre-auction estimate. Add the $5,750

(Cont. pg. 19)

AMAZING FANTASY
12¢
15 AUG.
THOUGH THE WORLD MAY MOCK PETER PARKER, THE TIMID TEEN-AGER...
...IT WILL SOON MARVEL AT THE AWESOME MIGHT OF SPIDER-MAN!
INTRODUCING SPIDER MAN
ALSO IN THIS ISSUE! AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO YOU FROM THE EDITOR--ABOUT THE NEW AMAZING!

ADVENTURES INTO WEIRD WORDS

©MEG

PRE-CODE & PRE-HERO

By Pat S. Calhoun

The two most important phases of Marvel Comics between their Gold and Silver age superhero eras are the pre-code years from 1949 through 1954, and the pre-hero years from 1959 through 1961. In the first of these, starting up as the Golden Age heroes died down, the whole gamut of genres came into play, with western, crime, romance, fantasy, and war books providing **the most adult-oriented newsstand comics ever published**. The pre-code era ground to a halt in late 1954 with the implementation of the Comics Code Authority, the self-imposed censorship board that set out (after Uncle Sam said clean-up or close-up) to make sure that comics were more suitable for children. This task was accomplished at great cost, leaving the industry a shadow of its former self. Atlas (Marvel's 1950's incarnation) actually fared rather well, expanding their offerings to fill the void left by the many publishers who went out of the business during this time. But the "industry doldrums" were so deep that this increase in quantity (by Atlas) led to a decrease in quality, and Atlas came to their own "eleventh hour" in mid 1957. During that deadly summer, a distribution crisis, coupled with the generally faltering market, forced Atlas to cancel most of their massive output. Few Atlas books appeared in 1958, but towards the end of the year- somewhat in response to Sputnik and the space race and another cresting wave of science-fiction's popularity- they began working on a new line of fantasy books.

The actual premiere issue was *Strange Worlds* 1 dated Dec. 1958, a harbinger of the big four of 1959: first issues of *Tales To Astonish* and *Tales Of Suspense*, and the revival issue of *Journey Into Mystery* (#50) in January, and February's *Strange Tales* (#67). And since these last four titles would eventually become homes to Marvel superheroes, this era is called pre-hero. *Strange Tales* is well able to supply "period pieces" that display both of these eras at their best. This was their longest running fantasy/hero title, stretching from #1 June 1951 through #188 Nov. 1976.

Strange Tales 18 (May 1953) was picked to represent pre-code for several reasons. Certainly fantasy titles from early 1953 show Atlas at the peak of their powers, with the storytelling honed to a fine point, and an incredible assortment of artists rendering in an awesome variety of styles. This issue features a handful of their top talent, starting with a cover by the prolific and powerful Russ Heath. All four of the stories are first-rate; this ish is slightly unusual in that five per issue was the norm. That gave the two lead stories a little elbow room that they both used to good advantage. The opener, "John Doe", is a seven-page scorcher by that ultimate Atlas team, Stan Lee and Joe Maneely. This tale of an android, who risks his life to save his creator's daughter, is full of that old-fashioned humanity that makes Lee one of the great comic book writers. And Maneely's intense art adds its own force to the twisting plot- as the scientist's daughter's thug boyfriend thinks he smells a buck in daddy's new invention... Next up, "The Saucers Strike", is another rouser, as a lone farmer stands up against aliens -intent on invasion- who have landed in his field just after planting. Then the cover story, "Witch Hunt", is a deft handling of old-world demonology, with Larry Woromay's

penciling inked by the overwhelming and opulent Matt Fox. The splash panel of the witches dancing madly around their devil master is one of the lushest and most decadent ever, and the antique atmosphere throughout is charged with sensual menace. This one has to be seen to be believed. The finale, "Boris and the Bomb", is a countdown thriller of Soviet agents holding an atomic tiger by the tail. Gene Colan drew this one, in his nicely grim style full of moody feathering. All in all, this adds up to a pre-code package that covers a wide range of subject matters- each illustrated in exemplary fashion.

While pre-code is a term that refers to early 1950's books from many comic companies, pre-hero (at least in its silver age sense) is more specifically applied to the 1959-1961 Atlas books, whose transition to Marvel is marked by *Fantastic Four* 1 Nov. 1961. Jack Kirby came to the ailing Atlas in 1958, and brought some of the optimism he'd felt at DC. It is really Kirby's work (especially working with Lee in the "monster" mode), and the august presence of Steve Ditko in every issue of every pre-hero fantasy title, that made these books something special, and again established Marvel in the marketplace.

Strange Tales #80 (Jan. 1961) cover features "Gargantus", who rises from the ocean floor to terrorize humankind. The ending borrows a bit from H. G. Wells, but the story holds its own. By early 1960, the pre-hero books had settled on a format of Kirby's monster lead, and Ditko five-pager, backed by tales drawn by Paul Reinman and Don Heck. This made for a nice consistency. The Heck story this ish concerns the "crushing" of an invasion from Dimension X, and the Reinman effort involves a prison break that turns out to be a bad break for the escaped con. The Ditko wrap-up, "Trapped in the Room of Shadows", has a somewhat shopworn plot, the "wish come true", where fate turns the tables on yet another greedy soul. But Stan and Steve had a way of plunging into self-parody that kept quite a few yarns from being complete losses.

These two issues of *Strange Tales* not only define their respective eras but serve to contrast them as well. Side by side the pre-code book seems much richer, and wider in possibility, and offers a vaster array of artists; while the pre-hero book, although highly entertaining, comes across as kid stuff. But others may think otherwise, and perhaps it is best simply to hope that these two books help show how old comics create a context through which history can be seen- political as well as panelogical. ■

Opposite Page: Strange Tales #80. Another great Jack Kirby "Pre-hero" cover with one of Stan Lee's famous monster names.

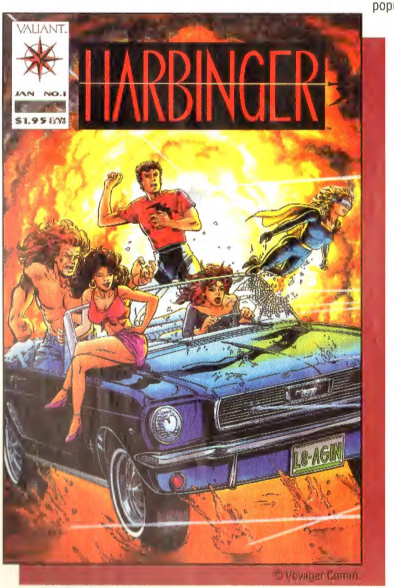
Above: Strange Tales #18, a rare example of "Pre-code" Strange Tales. Note the multiple panel "sidecar" on the left side of the cover.

VALIANT VS. IMAGE
THREE AGAINST THREE

By Michael Naiman

Something old... Something new... Something borrowed... well, you know how the saying goes. With this in mind, let's take a look at some current issues that have borrowed the comic book past and others who have come up with "something new".

The past few years have witnessed an explosion of new publishers and new product that has piqued the interest of old and new collectors alike. Voyager Communications (Valiant), and creator owned Image Comics, have produced a veritable plethora of titles that are currently enjoying a roller coaster ride of popularity. They are also experiencing a rise in value, which some retailers suggest is caused by both readers and speculators alike.



But whatever the cause, some of the comics form these two groundbreaking companies deserve a closer look. As you peruse the following, please note that I have not included the "metal" premium issues (platinum, gold, and silver) or the different variations of "inked" logos, or the "Zero" editions. Also all data is based on books in "Mint 99" condition because all are recently published material and should be available in pristine shape.

VALIANT:

In May of 1992, Valiant's ***Magnus, Robot Fighter* #12** introduced to many newer fans a longtime buried and forgotten Dell/Gold Key prehistoric favorite - Turok! Written by Faye Perozich and Jim Shooter, and wonderfully drawn by Gonzalo Mayo, this issue featured 44 pages and a cover price of $3.25. Today, this issue straddles the "century mark" with collector paying up to $100.00 (or more) in many stores. Driven by the popularity of Turok (and the acquisition of his own book), plus the current Dinosaur-mania brought on by the Jurassic Park movie, this particular issue should hold it's own unless the prehistoric popularity parade takes a wrong turn and sinks into the "tar pits" of poor writing and story-telling. In just 15 months ***Magnus, Robot Fighter* #12 has shown an increase of close to 3000%.**

Solar, formerly Gold Key's first original character Dr. Solar, Man of the Atom, made his debut in the Valiant Universe in September of 1991. This title was guided through the first ten issues by the skills and finesse of Barry Windsor-Smith and Jim Layton. June of 1992 saw the publication of ***Solar* #10** with a strikingly embossed solid black cover priced at $3.95. Together with it's luxurious cover, issue #10 also heralded the first appearance of the time traveling newcomer to the Valiant Universe, the Eternal Warrior. Issue #10 also contained the final free 8 page insert which is the 10th chapter of the Solar origin story. Today's marketplace has accorded this book a retail value of $75. This means that when compared against its

original cover price, ***Solar* #10 has increased nearly 1800%.**

Rounding out the Valiant trio is the immensely popular ***Harbinger* #1**. Hitting the stands in January of 1992 at $1.95, this Jim Shooter written and David Lapham penciled epic now "guides out" at $125.00 for issue #1. This super group storyline features teenagers with extraordinary abilities (not to mention personality disorders) out to suppress the evil intentions of Toyo Harada and the Harbinger Foundation. Sting, alias Peter Stanchek, is a psionic of extraordinary power and potential. Once a student of Harada, he has broken away from the Foundation in order to avenge the killing of his best friend. Along the way he teams with Kris, Zephyr, Flamingo, and Torque in order to foil Harada's nefarious scheme. Leading the Valiant titles with a whopping increase over its cover price, ***Harbinger* #1 has gone up 6310%.**

IMAGE

Led by an all-star cast of artists/writers (Jim Lee, Rob Liefeld, Eric Larson, Todd McFarlane, Whilce Portacio and Jim Valentino), the Image group of titles have not yet increased as dramatically as the Valiant titles. This might be partially attributed to the basic supply and demand economic yardstick. Valiant titles have reportedly been subject to a much smaller print run than the competitive Image titles. One only has to observe the weekly self-congratulating advertisements in a noted weekly comic book publication (touting their "number one book" of the month) to understand that the Image titles are not really "rare" or "scarce". An added element to this value/scarcity evaluation is the recent appearance of Image titles (first printings) in bulk packaging at local Wal-Mart stores for no more than the combined regular cover price.

Image's initial entry into the comic book fray was lead by Rob Liefeld's ***Youngblood* #1** in April of 1992. This first issue, cover priced at $2.50, offers the reader a dual plot line in a "flip" book format, utilizing a Youngblood Home Team. The team consists of Bedrock, Combat, Chapel, Vogue, Diehard and Shaft, and a Youngblood Away Team populated by Brahma, Riptide, Photon, Psi-fire, Sentinel, and Cougar. These newest superheroes consist of an elite strike force "... genetically enhanced to combat evil in all its forms. Enforcing America's interest both at home and overseas!" The self-imposed limitations of the "pin-up" style artistry and the compressed story length (due to the flip format) might be confus-

being published and distributed on time as for quality content. Effective writing and artwork by Todd McFarlane has shown this title to be the Image fan favorite. The adventures of the "recently departed" African-American Al Simmons, former Lt. Colonel and covert government agent, and his reincarnation in a Caucasion body provides the reader with many ironies and thought provoking situations.

***Spawn* #1** (May 1992) is a Todd McFarlane authored, penciled, and inked piece which introduces the character via Todd's unique presentation style. Guaranteed a fan following by the incredible success of his previous endeavors, this book has risen to the $10.00 level after only a year on the stands. Originally $1.95, ***Spawn* #1 has increased 412%.**

As the summer comic convention season kicks into high gear, and the introduction of new product by new publishers hits the stands, it will be important to note how this effects the reported "glut" of product and their values as dealers scramble to unload overordered and speculatively purchased "hot" books. I hope that readers will please note Erik Andresen's article in *CBM* #2 ("Ten Red-Sizzlin' Hot Comics That Turned Ice Cold"), and be aware of what can/might/could happen in the always volitile marketplace. This summer I have witnessed "oceans" of new material on most "new issue" dealer's tables. there will be an excellent opportunity for the collector to obtain back issues of their favority titles at extremely competitive prices.

Both Valiant and Image titles offer the new collector an opportunity to get in on a brand new universe at "ground zero". There is a fabulous opportunity at hand to be able to have a complete collection at a fraction of what it can cost to obtain older and more scarce runs of Golden and Silver Age issues. Imaginative artistic presentation and creative writing awaits those fans willing to purchase a ticket and take a ride to the Valiant and Image universes! ■

Thanks to Greg Pharis, Jacob Schraer, and Raan Summers for research assistance:

ing to the novice comic book reader. However, "Liefeld's Legions" have made this much anticipated title's first offering a big success on the resale market. Valuation indications show that issue brings as much as $8.00 per issue. In 16 months ***Youngblood* #1 has increased 220%.**

Co-Creators Jim Lee and Brandon Choi, with inker Scott Williams, team up to present the August 1992 issued title of ***WildC.A.T.S.: Covert Action Teams* #1**. The ever popular team format is introduced this time with "gifted ones" roll call consisting of Void, Warblade, Maul, Spartan, Voodoo, Grifter and Zealot, lead by a dwarf by the name of Jacob Marlow (who is to discover that he was once one of four Lords of Power). Together, the WildC.A.T.S. battle the evil cabal led by Helspont, who is intent on conquering planet Earth. Not even out for 1 year, this book is now in the $10.00 catagory. Compared with the original $1.95 cover price, **this translates to a 412% increase for *WildC.A.T.S.* #1**.

It has been said by many fans and dealers that perhaps the strongest book in the Image line is *Spawn*. Store owners say that they respect it as much for

WANTED: BARKS COMICS

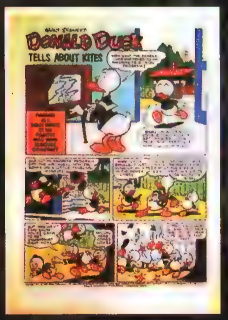
Paying 100% of Overstreet for these Barks & Disney comics in Near Mint & Mint condition.

March of Comics #4, © WDC

March of Comics #20, © WDC

March of Comics #41, © WDC

WD's Comics & Stories #1, © WDC



DD Tells About Kites, © WDC

Top prices paid for all early high grade BARKS comics and original art! Single items or collections… CONTACT ME FIRST!

STEVE GEPPI

1966 Greenspring Drive, Timonium, MD 21093

1-800-783-2981

THE DEFIANT ONE

by Jan C. Childress

The comics industry has gone through many changes over the past few years. Fueled by older readers rediscovering their childhood passion, speculators looking for quick profits, and the ubiquitous young readers, the industry has defied a national recession and doubled in sales since 1989. New imprints like Image, Valiant, Vertigo, and Milestone have sprouted up, both benefiting from and helping to sustain the excitement that has fueled the industry's impressive growth. Even Topps, a company noted more for its baseball cards, has entered the fray.

In the midst of this enthusiasm is emerging yet another new imprint, Defiant. Defiant is being launched at a time when many argue that the industry is poised for a shake-out. Nevertheless, this newest imprint holds some elements that may quickly distinguish it from the still burgeoning pack and assure for it a unique measure of success.

Defiant, established under the aegis of Enlightened Entertainment Partners, L.P., is the brain child of Jim Shooter. The name of Jim Shooter alone warrants more than a curious glance at the new imprint. Jim is as controversial as he is accomplished in the industry. This, his second reemergence, holds the promise of being his most distinguished and lasting contribution.

Who Are Jim Shooter's Partner's?

Enlightened Entertainment represents a "dream come true" for Jim Shooter and the others involved in launching the new company. The organization is structured as a partnership. Aside from Shooter, the partners in the company include: Winston Fowlkes, David Lapham, Janet Jackson, Debbie Fix, and Clark Smith.

Winston Fowlkes, who is the Publisher of Defiant, spent 30 years at Time Inc., much of it as a senior corporate financial officer and publisher of Time/Life Books in Europe. This is his second collaboration with Jim, as both were among the founders of Valiant.

Jim often describes David Lapham as "the next Jack Kirby," and discovered and trained him at Valiant.

Janet Jackson made quite a name for herself at Valiant, working with Knob Row on an innovative coloring process that produced some stark colors and effects, a mark that still distinguishes Valiant's titles even after her departure. She serves as the Creative Director at Defiant.

Debbie Fix, another former Valiant employee, is the Defiant Manager, making order of the excited pace that characterizes the new company.

Clark Smith handles Sales and Marketing, utilizing a strong background in sales, marketing, and development at CineQuest Entertainment Corporation. "We're product-oriented," says Clark of Defiant, "not driven by gimmicks. We

JIM SHOOTER

will rely on solid storytelling produced by the most dynamic creative talent we can uncover." That commitment to quality is very apparent in the preview material for Defiant's first title.

The Coming Of... Plasm! A master plot from a master story teller!

Defiant's inaugural title is the long awaited *Plasm*. The setting is another dimension, in which Plasm exists as a mecca of genetic engineering, where everything from machines and buildings, to clothing are grown and recycled rather than built. Consequently, life abounds, as everything on Plasm is organic, stretching the ecosystem to limits where it can no longer support additional growth. Only the privileged class is allowed to genetically engineer offspring who, like all citizens, are immediately extricated from the family and indoctrinated into the society, a society devoid of individualism and family values. "It is a misdemeanor to kill your neighbor," Jim commented, "but it's a capital crime not to recycle the body. The entire value system here is skewed."

One "individual" nevertheless emerges from this environment: Lorca, a high ranking military officer. Lorca heads Plasm's "Target Acquisition Project", an effort by the civilization to grow through conquests. During his search for new worlds to subdue and incorporate, he happens upon Earth's dimension. He then clandestinely spirits 10,000 people from Earth to be genetically engineered on Plasm, hoping to create an army of superhumans to fuel a rebellion on his world. However, only five Earthlings survive the transformation. These five will eventually return to Earth to the Defiant Universe, but not before forcing some changes on Plasm.

Plasm is written by Shooter and penciled by Lapham, with Mike Witherby supplying the inks. The artwork that I was able to preview for this title was crisp, flowing, and wonderfully rich in detail. The artists seem to effectively capture the visual subtleties that are so important in depicting the bizarre, complicated world of Plasm. Janet Jackson will supply the colors.

"We're having great fun with this title," says Janet. "So much of what Defiant is all about is woven into the plot and its characters." Indeed, Lorca, the main character, embodies the spirit of this new company.

REBEL WITH A CAUSE

THE DEFIANT UNIVERSE

All logos © Defiant Comics

A candid shot of
Jim Shooter
during the development
of the Defiant Universe.

Below: Stan Lee & "Spider-Man"

A MESSAGE TO JIM SHOOTER FROM MARVEL'S STAN LEE...

Hey Jim – Just what we need – another competitor! Savvy guy, to boot! But hey, that's what keeps us on our toes! So welcome back to the wild and wonderful world of swingin' superheroes! May you remain ever daring – and DEFIANT!

Excelsior!
Stan Lee

JIM SHOOTER CONTINUED

"Lorca's dreams take him beyond convention," said Jim. "In a world that deals harshly with iconoclasts, Lorca musters the drive to defy the norms and to pursue the dreams that he shares with others, others not necessarily in a position to take their wishes to fruition. This theme of striving to fulfill wishes will pervade the Defiant Universe. It is the basis for Enlightened Entertainment."

Bringing up some heavy hitters: Including Steve Ditko and Chris Claremont!

Defiant is bringing together a lineup of some of the industry's most respected professionals. "Veterans like myself, Chris Claremont, and Steve Ditko have endured a lot in the industry," Jim continued. "This is our opportunity to see some of our unfulfilled wishes come true."

Claremont, who along with others has been instrumental in fashioning the Defiant Universe, will begin his first series for Defiant in mid-summer, entitled "Prudence and Caution". The spin-off from Plasm will feature one of the five surviving Earthlings from Lorca's experiment. This female/male buddy team will mix light humor with action and adventure.

Chris will eventually do a second title as well. Dark Dominion, another forthcoming title, will feature the artistic talents of the legendary Steve Ditko. Steve Leialoha will provide the inks. "Steve Ditko revolutionized the way magic was depicted in comics with Dr. Strange," said Jim. "He will do it again with this title."

By the time Defiant completes its first year of publishing, Jim hopes to have nine regular titles. In addition to the creators mentioned above, Defiant will welcome professionals like Mike Barr and Alan Weiss to its line.

"The entire basis for the Defiant Universe begins in the outlandish," says Editorial Director Deborah Purcell, who earned her stripes as Fiction Editor of Redbook. "Yet we fold real world sensibilities into that Milieu, creating something quite exciting. The talent that we call together to pull this off is an unbelievable blend of accomplished veterans and fresh new faces." This marriage of proven professionals with newcomers reaches into the heart of Defiant, touching the feature of Enlightened Entertainment's self-appointed mission that may prove to be its most important contribution to the industry over time.

A chance for comic book fans to "break into" the business? The Defiant Educational Tour!

Even before its first title hits the stands, Defiant will launch a series of seminars aimed at developing the creative potential that exists among the thousands of fans who regularly comb through the pages of comic books. Dubbed the Defiant Educational Tour, Jim sees the effort as another way toward helping to fulfill dreams. He says of the tours, "There are many, many people - fans and others - who have an interest in the craft of creating comics, but precious few teachers and few opportunities to learn. I'm not talking about learning to be a star, but simply learning what it takes to give it a try, to take that first step toward stardom. The Kubert School is good at serving this end, but there are few others."

Much of the motivation for the tours comes from Jim's own early experiences with breaking into the field. He began writing comics for DC at the age of 13, submitting unsolicited materials that landed him a job. "I know what it means trying to break into the field," Jim said, "and what a difference a little bit of direction can mean."

To see Jim Shooter in the company of eager young fans is to see the spirit of the teacher in him awaken. "Talent untapped, unproven, perhaps even unaware of itself: That is what we wish to awaken in those fans who have looked beyond and entertained the hope that one day they might try their hand at creating comics."

The first three-hour seminar will take place in June at Mile High Comics in Anaheim, California. Another will be conducted at the San Diego Comic Con in August. There will be more as Defiant reaches out to fandom across the world.

"I am a wish fulfiller at heart," Jim said. "I want to give more than autographs and words of encouragement as I meet the fans from across the globe. I want to leave something behind, something hopeful and perhaps lasting. This is ultimately what Defiant is all about."

Producing quality comics and serving the industry as teacher: These are the goals Defiant is determined to meet. Defiant's Editorial Coordinator, Carl Gafford, characterized the spirit that is fueling Defiant's charge, saying, "Being here in the midst of all this excitement, surrounded by so much talent reaching toward endless possibilities... It's like a dream come true." If Jim Shooter has his fondest wish, there will be many others over the years to come who will utter similar words.

Make a wish, and hold to it fast. Jim Shooter and Defiant may come along to help mold it into reality. ■

CBM Auction Report (Cont. from page 8)

paid for an Infantino/Frank Giacoia interior page from *Showcase* #8 (reputed to be the earliest known example of Silver Age hero art) to the $7,762 paid for a Joe Kubert Hawkman title splash to *Brave and Bold* #36, and you start to get the picture of the feeding frenzy that was Sotheby's.

And how does anyone account for the $8,050 that was paid for the title splash by Mike Sekowsky/Bernard Sachs to *JLA* #1? Curt Swan/George Klein covers also commanded unbelievable high prices. The cover art to *Adventure Comics* #302, *Superman* #116, *Action Comics* #301, and *World's Finest* #171 fetched $4888, $5175, $4888, and $4025 respectively - nearly double their pre-auction value.

But, Spidey was definitely King at this auction. An early Ditko interior page from *ASM* #6 was sold for $3,105. The cover to the *Amazing Spider-Man* #40 by John Romita sold for a record $18,975, and was followed by a Romita interior page from *ASM* #39 which netted $5,750, double its pre-auction estimate.

Other Silver Age art sales of note include $5,175 for the Infantino/Anderson cover to *Mystery in Space* #91, $2,760 for the Murphy Anderson cover to *Strange Adventures* #138, $3,738 for his cover to *Mystery in Space* #21, $5,463 for his cover to *JLA* #17, and $5,175 for his cover to *Hawkman* #4. And would you believe that $4,888 was paid for a Kirby/Ayers interior page to *Fantastic Four* #7 (almost 5 times the pre-auction high estimate!)

Other Silver Age comic sales of note include a solid Very Fine copy of *ASM* #1 which sold for $9,890, White Mountain copies of *Fantastic Four* #2-10 which sold for $13,800, a miscellaneous lot of DCs from the White Mountain Collection sold for $3,450, a *Showcase* #8 and a group of early Flashes from the Nevada Collection fetched $3,105.

After the frenetic, feeding frenzy of the first session, the audience held its collective breath for the second session which included the Gaines EC file copies, and terrific EC original artwork by Krenkel, Davis, Ingels, Wood, Williamson, and Frazetta to name a few. Bringing up the rear (it sounds odd just saying it) was Golden Age and strip art. With the recent passings of Gaines and Kurtzman, a lot of the pre-auction "buzz" centered on how well the File copies would do.

Members of the grading committee commented that, generally, the File copies were the most technically perfect comics they had ever graded. And they did very well indeed, setting records for this period, and reinforcing the notion that very high-grade comics from any era will continue to attract top dollar.

Gaines File copy sales of note include, *Crypt of Terror* #17-19, *Tales From the Crypt* #20-46, and *Crime Patrol* #15, 16… the lot for $23,000; *Haunt of Fear* #1-28 for $13,800; *Vault of Horror* #13-40 and *War Against Crime* #10, 11 for $19,550; *Weird Science* #1-22 for $14,950; *Weird Fantasy* #1-22 for $12,650; and *Shock SuspenStories* #1-18 for $8,050.

Notable EC original art sales of note include, a Johnny Craig "pre-trend" cover to *Crime Patrol* #16 for $4,025; an 8 page complete Al Feldstein story from *Tales from the Crypt* #22 for $1,955; a complete sci-fi story by Al Williamson and Frank Frazetta fetched a tidy $10,350 in what is probably a record for EC art.

Sales of Golden Age collectibles were meek at this auction, which did not feature the amazingly deep funs of Mile Highs that helped so much last year. Still, the completely unrestored "pay-out" copies of *Marvel Comics* #1, and *Motion Picture Funnies* #1 passed (which means bids did not reach the required minumum) at $52,500. The pre-auction estimate for this lot was between $70,000-$80,000. The original cover to *Motion Picture Funnies* #1 did sell well over its very low pre-auction estimate($2,000) for $20,700 in a nice bidding war.

Restored copies of *Action Comics* #1, *Detective* #27, and *Superman* #1 also passed, which some interpret as an indicator of collector resistance to restoration. Restored Silver Age books were similarly passed.

In other news, a Carl Barks oil painting of Uncle Scrooge sold for the tidy sum of $110,000, well over its pre-auction estimate, and a rare Superman ring for a disappointing $25,300, leading to speculation that the high end of the premium ring market may be less robust than previously believed.

In closing, a couple of trends can be gleaned from this auction. First, collectors everywhere are beginning to "key" on the major auctions. The pent-up demand was obvious and extraordinary. Second, Silver Age is beginning to take the measure of Golden Age for demand and prices. Third, the more expensive Silver or Golden Age books that are restored and did not fare well with auction bidders. Fourth, high-grade comics from any era are in great demand and will probably continue to command record prices. Fifth, original artwork, especially from the Silver Age, has finally come of age, fetching prices normally reserved for very rare Golden Age art like Hal Foster, Alex Raymond, and the like.

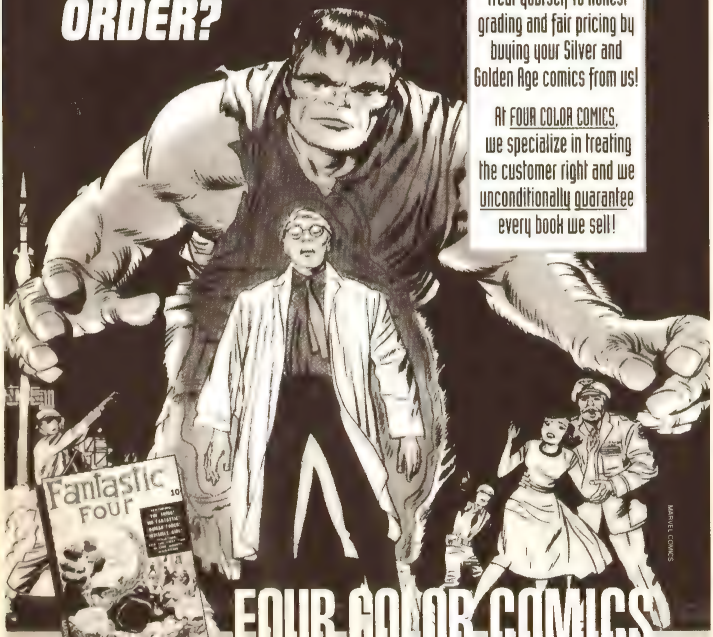
As veteran collector Pat Kochanek said before the auction started, "You can have fun even without Mile Highs." From the auction scene, I'm Bill Howard. ■

Reported by Bill Howard

DID YOU TURN INTO A MONSTER THE LAST TIME YOU RECEIVED YOUR ORDER?

If this looks familiar, treat yourself to honest grading and fair pricing by buying your Silver and Golden Age comics from us!

At FOUR COLOR COMICS, we specialize in treating the customer right and we unconditionally guarantee every book we sell!



FOUR COLOR COMICS

NEW YORK SHOWROOM—By Appointment Only—Hrs: 10-6 Wkdays,115 West 27th St. New York, NY 10001

IF YOU'VE GOT BOOKS TO SELL, CALL IMMEDIATELY: (212) 675-6880

LEE HESTER
Lee's Comics
3783 El Camino Read
Palo Alto, CA 94306
(415) 493-3957

Current Age - DC: As "Reign of the Supermen" continues, sales have started to drop, though not quite as low as pre-Doomsday numbers. "Knightfall" has taken its place as the current "hot property". *Sword of Azrael* #1 sells briskly for $12, with issues #2-4 going for $9; the *Vengeance of Bane* one-shot goes for $12. Conversely, there has not been any noticeable increase in the demand for other Batman back issues, despite all those people rushing about to pick up the latest Knightfall installment. The Bloodlines story currently running through the DC annuals has not spawned any additional sales; perhaps collectors are finally getting tired of crossover story-lines that force them to buy copies of comics they would not normally purchase (we could only hope). The Milestone imprint is DC's attempt to do a "PC" (politically correct) comic. Despite the best intentions, the line has failed to generate any true reader interest. Vertigo keeps going strong.

Marvel: Overall sales have slowed, even on the "reliable" sellers such as the Spider-Man titles and X-Men. The "Maximum Carnage" story-line still sells high numbers, but the Infinity Crusade is another example of resistance to story-lines that cross into numerous titles. The limited series itself sells fewer numbers that its predecessor, Infinity War, and the crossover has not generated extra sales for the mid-range Marvels that it ties into. Remember back in the 1960s when it was a big deal when one character crossed into another character's book? And an event like this happened only once in a great while? I think publishers would be wise to scale back if they want to avoid killing the goose that laid the golden egg

Fantagraphics: In the after-glow of our signing, more people have started coming in to our store looking specifically for titles by Peter Bagge and Dan Clowes, or for similar titles now that they've bought every possible back issue of Hate and Eightball. Good reads include the long running Love and Rockets, Palesting by Joe Sacco, Real Stuff written by Dennis Eichhorn, Cud by Terry LaBan, Naughty Bits by Roberta Gregory. From other companies (but equally merit-worthy) are Dirty Plotte by Julie Doucet, Peepshow by Joe Matt, Slutburger Stories by Mary Fleener, and Yummy Fur by Chester Brown to name but a few. Look for the demand to keep increasing for these and other quality titles. They are read by a select group, but this audience is generally outside of the mainstream of comics. Unlike the followers of superhero titles, the readership of these titles is distributed equally among male and female readers. They are not interested in "hot artists", gimmick covers, or crossovers. They will be looking to you to help supply them with the complete canon of their favorite creators' works.

Topps: As I write this, *Jurassic Park* #1 has just arrived and is selling briskly. The Jack Kirby titles unfortunately did not do nearly as well as hoped. Many fans were expecting something that more closely resembled Kirby's style; the covers were pure Kirby but that was about it. Even bagging each comic with a card didn't help sales. Perhaps the comics were bagged to prevent fans from catching a glimpse of the non-Kirby interior.

Dark Horse: Star Wars Dark Empire still sells well as a back issue, though we have lowered our prices to $9 for issue #1 and $15 for issue #2. The three Aliens comics (Colonial Marines, Rogue, and Sacrifice) continue to have a loyal following, and the yet to be released Aliens vs. Predator by Chris Claremont looks like it will continue the high quality we've seen so far.

Tundra: Demand for Crow continues unabated, with the Caliber printings going to $25 for issue #1, $12 for issue #2, $15 for issue #3 (which apparently had a limited print run), and $6 for issue #4. As for the Tundra book line, people have expressed a desire to see all new material, rather than collected stories culled from older issues of Heavy Metal.

Valiant: Valiant mania is definitely on the down swing, with new issue sales coming down towards pre-Unity numbers. Now that more people are unloading their hoarded copies of early Valiant issues, expect prices to decline. *Turok* #1 still sells almost daily for cover price, as does *Rai and the Future Force* #9, but would not sell for a premium. The same folk who were calling us daily to try and find Valiants to purchase are now calling daily to sell! Sorry folks, but we warned you.

Image: Just as Valiant mania is slowing, so is Image mania. We no longer get fifty phone calls a day asking when the next batch of Image titles will be out. Fans have gotten used to waiting through the long dry spells between books. The Dave Sim issues of Spawn sold well, and Shaman's Tears by Mike Grell was a sell out, hitting on both artistic and literary scoreboards. Sales on Youngblood related titles have slowed, I think due largely to overly stylized artwork, sometimes blatant character design "swipes", and a less than exciting plot.

Cry For Dawn: First printings of issue #1 and 2 are extremely hard to come by. We recently blew through several copies of #1 at $30 each, and have had to raise our price to $75; I have heard that it sells for $100 at conventions. Issue #2 goes for $15, with issues #3 and 4 selling for $10 each.

Rebel: With the Rebel editions of Faust on the stands, a steady demand for Tim Vigil's works continues. First printings of *Faust* #1 sell moderately for $30; issue #2 for $20; and issue #3 for $10.

Undergrounds: First editions of true underground comics from the sixties are slow movers. Publishers reprint the more popular titles such as Freak Brothers, Underground Classics, and Mickey Rat, and many readers would rather purchase the cheaper reprints than expensive first printings which are often nearly impossible to distinguish from later printings. The only price guide for underground's came out in 1982 and has never been updated or revised. It is very difficult to sell most supposedly valuable underground's.

QVC Comments - It was brought to my attention that the "home shopping" television networks have started selling comics as "collectibles". Many of the items offered are "signed and numbered with a certificate of authenticity". On QVC, a Superman: Doomsday trade paperback and a third printing of *Superman* #75, signed and limited to 5,000 copies, was selling for $118. And no, I did not put the decimal in the wrong place! I strongly urge collectors not buy "investment collectibles" from TV shopping networks. It's my view that those who are calling in to buy are people who would not normally set foot inside a comic book store, and hence have no real knowledge of what such items might be worth, now or in the future.

Speculators Note - Much of the demand for a comic book featuring the first appearance of an older character who is soon to be revived takes place before that new appearance, in anticipation that the comic featuring the revival will be a hit. Luke Cage, Deathlok, and Warlock are but a few examples of this. Their first appearances were moderately priced until their revivals were announced. Speculators began to buy up their first appearances, in anticipation of a greater demand once the new series appeared. When the revival finally hit the stands, it inevitably disappointed those who were expecting it to be the new sensation. Although the prices for the characters' first appearances remained high on paper, the demand for these issues vanished

Silver Age - Marvel: There has been little change in the desirability of Silver Age Marvels; key issues in high grade are still the most sought after.

DC: These are generally harder to find than their Marvel counterparts, and generally easier to move.

Golden Age Heart Breaker- There was a real heart breaker in the store last week as an elderly gentleman came in with a bag full of Golden Age comics. He claimed he wanted to sell them to me, so I spent an hour and a half grading and pricing each individual book. The collection included Fine condition copies of early 1940's *Batman, Comic Cavalcade, All American, All Flash, All Star, Captain Marvel Adventures, Superman,* and others. The books were remarkable in that they had no color flaking, no spine damage, and white pages. It was some of the best material I've ever been offered. After I showed him the exact value of his books and made him the fairest, most generous offer I was able to make, he simply declined the offer, giving several different explanations ("now he knew what to insure the books for", "he had to think it over", he's comparing west coast prices to east coast prices", etc.).

This discouraging experience has lead me to the conclusion that it is time we changed the way we buy comics. In the future, when we are offered a nice collection like this one, we'll ask the owners what they want for their comics. If they name a certain

amount, we will either accept it or make a counter offer. If they don't have a figure in mind of how much they want, we'll inform them that we can look the books over quickly and give them a general idea of their worth and thus what we can offer them. However, if they want a better offer, we'll have to evaluate each book and list its value; that will take some time, and **we'll have to charge for the appraisal** unless they decide to sell the books to us. Once they have our appraisal in hand, they can think about whether or not to accept our offer for as long as they want; they'll have a list of the comics, along with a grade and price for each book. If they decide to sell to us, we'll refund the amount of the appraisal. If an offer they get from another dealer is more than our offer plus our appraisal fee, they are free to take that offer and they'll still come out ahead.

I guess what I'm getting at is that I don't see why comic dealers should feel compelled to do what amounts to professional appraisal without compensation. Other professionals are compensated for their expert appraisal. One doesn't get free "advisory" visits with doctors, lawyers, counselors, accountants, and other types of appraisers. They get compensation for there time and advice. Many people seem to feel that a comic book dealer's professional time and advice is without value. I think this has got to change if we are to be taken seriously as a profession. I would love to get feedback from other dealers as to how they handle this situation.

EC - They seem to sell as fast as we can buy them. The horror and war titles, plus the science fiction titles with Frazetta covers, are the most demanded.

Gold Timelys - Impossible to keep in stock, they sell as fast as we can get them!

Gold DCs - Superman titles and Batman titles sell whenever we can get them.

Restoration Note - While I have no problem at all with fans restoring their books to preserve them, I have a big problem with dealers restoring books so they can hike up the price. I suggest responsible dealers spend their money on collections, not on restoration. Comics already cost too gull-durned much as it is!

In Conclusion - I look forward to dealing with many of you at my booth in San Diego (look for the Lee's Comics logo). Old comics (Golden and Silver Age) make up only 5% of my overall sales in the stores; at conventions, however, it's all I do and it's the most fun! If you are interested in comics at all, you owe it to yourself to attend The San Diego Con. It's as great as everyone says!

BRUCE ELLSWORTH
Bruce's Comics
24328 Cerrillos Rd.
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 474-0494

Greetings from the wild western state of New Mexico & in particular Santa Fe. Paul, Sparks, and I are gearing up for the Dallas Fantasy Fair which should be an indication of how our areas economy is doing. Which brings me to an important question: will 60s Marvel & DC back issue sales slow down due to the decline in sales of their new titles? Here both of these publishers are selling about 1/2 of what they were selling 1 year ago. Even the most loyal Marvel and DC "zombies" are real picky about what they buy. I feel the market is being inundated by too many new superhero books. Dark Horse, Malibu, & Jim Shooter's Defiant are likely to slice the pie even thinner in the coming months. This makes ordering especially hard for retailers. I'm advising caution.

Silver Age - Very strong sales on upper grade Marvels and DC's and Keys in lower condition. There was an abundance of these books 5 years ago, but now due to renewed popularity plus their investment potential, these books are becoming scarce. I've seen a lot of dealers sell these books for over guide. There is only one problem - What is guide?! Last year I would have told you the DC's and Marvels were undervalued. This year I'm worried. I have never seen the price increases that have happened this year. I feel that this is a very precarious time in the market so and I believe that the prudent approch is to price fairly and competitively so we don't find our hobby going the way of the sport card business. Nuff said.

Sales: *Spider-Man* #1 VG $500, *Flash* #123 VF $450, *Hulk* #1 GD $500, #1 VF $3500, *Strange Tales* #1 VG $300.

Golden Age - Very strong Golden Age DC market with many buyers makes this market solid.

Aquisitions: I just obtained a large run of early *Batman, Detective,* and *More Fun* - average condition was VG to FN. *Batmans* from 4-20, *Detectives* from 37-80, and *More Funs* from 11-30. Most were sold in a few hours. A

Sales: *Batman* #4 FN $1800, #6 GD $240, *Detective* #10 FN $800, #43 GD $150, #44 FN $400, *More Fun* #11 FR/GD $100, *More Fun* #102 FR $75.

New Comics - Batman and Superman titles sell in decent numbers along with Sandman. With Batman gone for a year and Superman coming back, DC will have to keep up the art and writing to hold their audience.

Marvel is still declining in popularity with in-store sales down to 10%. The X-Men unlimited sold out immediately, but popularity seems to be waning.

Image is now selling in last years Marvel numbers. In-store sales are appr. 65% due to the art and the fact that these titles are starting to arrive on time. Everyone is anticipating the Deathmate crossover with Valiant *Deathblow* #1 and *Wildstar* #1 were excellent books. *Bloodshot* #6 and 7 were instant sellouts. This valiant serial number is definitely working. *Solar, Turok,* and *Rai Future Force* are also excellent sellers. Barry Windsor Smith please come back to Archer and Armstrong.

Until mountains crumble to the sea, make mine Overstreet!

BRUNO ANDREACCHI
B.A.'s Nostalgia Land
242 Piccadilly St.
London, Ontario, N6A 1S4, Canada
(519) 439-9636

Silver Age - A real hodge podge of titles have been moving of late. If it's a key issue and it's in nice shape, it will sell. All figures are in U.S. funds: *Brave & Bold* #43 VF+ $99, #44 VF $79, *Fantastic Four* #48 VF+ $399, and a real gem copy of *Strange Adventures* #180 $249 in MT99 condition (I had a dozen serious responses, the first caller got it, and nine callbacks on this gorgeous book from the Thunder Bay Collection. Definitely a big demand on this 1963 key). *Superman* #149 VF+ $59, #156 VF/NM $29, #200 NM $15; *Flash* #129 VF/NM $199.

Bronze Age - Also from the T.B. Collection, *Incredible Hulk* #180 NM, #181 MT99, #182 NM for $399 the set. *Amazing Spider-Man* #101 VG $39, *DC Special Series* #16 (Death of Jonah Hex) NM $10, *Marvel Comics Super Special* #2 NM $10.

Modern Age - *ASM* #298 $35, #300 $60, #300 $50 VF/NM, *Namor* #26 $20, *Ren & Stimpy* #1 $28, #2 $20, *Sandman* #1 $60, *Batman* #489 $25, *Vengeance of Bane* $30, *Killing Joke* $25, *Sword of Azrael* $60 the set, *Magnus O* w/o card $75, *Spawn* #1 $12, #2 $9, #3 $9, #4 $15, *The Crow* #1 $40.

DC is becoming the company of choice for readers. The Reign of Supermen, Knightfall, Vertigo, Milestone, and even titles like *JLA* and *Spectre* are bringing people back into the store, not to speculate, but to find out what is happening in the stories. Bravo!

Valiant used to be like this but, lately, every issue has a loudly touted first appearance of somebody, and speculators are trying to buy multiple copies off the shelves, which would only serve to short-change serious readers, if I allowed it. I don't. Not in this store, guys.

Marvel continues to lose subscribers here, due to their homogenized look and their lack of continuity. No amount of suspension of disbelief can help convince even the most devoted fan that Spidey, Wolverine, Ghost Rider, and Punisher can be in so many adventures at the same time with nary a footnote in sight. I'm telling everyone (and especially youngsters) that if they want to enjoy a classic, fun, and inexpensive Marvel, to try "1963" from Image. Everybody should be reading this title.

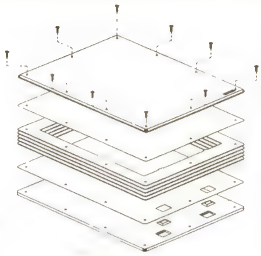
I encourage everybody to experiment. If you no longer enjoy a title, try something else. There's a lot of good stuff out there from a lot of good companies: Topps, Kitchen Sink, Fantagraphics, Dark Horse, Malibu, Marvel, DC, Valiant, Defiant, A-V, Continuity, Disney, Innovation, Image, Warp, etc. The list goes on and on. Read and enjoy.

PHIL BARNHART
Cobalt Comics
2460 Sunstone Dr.
Fort Collins, CO 80525
(303) 223-4016

Is Your Favorite Comic Book Protected To Your Satisfaction?

Does your present method of conservation offer you the same "peace-of-mind" that owning a FORTRESS can? Questions only you can answer, but when you decide to get serious about protecting the comic books you love…CONTACT US. We're the Pedrin Conservatory. We are the makers of the FORTRESS, the finest archival protection system in the world. We don't sell comic books…we just protect them better than anyone else.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: (415) 369-9307 PHONE/FAX – OR – VISIT YOUR NEAREST AUTHORIZED FORTRESS DEALER.



ALASKA

COLLIN L. DEY
Dey, Collin L.
8780 Jewel Terrace Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
(907) 248-5924

CALIFORNIA

LEE'S COMICS
Lee, Hestor
3783 El Camino Real
Palo Alto, California 94306
(415) 493-3957

HI-DE HO COMICS
Smith, Mike
525 Santa Monica Blvd.
Santa Monica, California 90401
(213) 394-2820

AMERICA'S BEST COMICS & COLLECTIBLES
Stanton, Alan
P.O. Box 5085
Huntington Beach, California 92615-5085
(714) 536-4685

COMIC ZONE
Mabray, Paul
2997 Jefferson Street
Napa, California 94558
(707) 258-1991

PACIFIC COMIC EXCHANGE, INC.
Roter, Robert
P.O. Box 34849
Los Angeles, California 90034
(310) 836-PCEI

CONNECTICUT

COMIC CONNECTION
Sedwick, John
727 Boswell Avenue
Norwich, Connecticut 06360
(203) 887-0483

CANADA

FUN & VIDEO GAMES
Gladue, David
4907 Gaetz Avenue (BSMT)
Red Deer, Alta T4N 4A7
(403) 343-1858

FLORIDA

TROPIC COMICS
742 N.E. 167th Street
Miami, Florida 33162
(305) 940-8700

TROPIC COMICS
1018 21st Street (US-1)
Vero Beach, Florida 32960
(407) 562-8501

TROPIC COMICS
Chruscinski, John
313 South State Road #7
Plantation, Florida 33317
(305) 587-8878

GEORGIA

SHOWCASE COLLECTIBLES
Linkenback, Sean
2880 Holcomb Bridge Road
Suite B19
Alpharetta, Georgia 30202
(404) 594-0778

HAWAII

JELLY'S
Lau, Percy
98-199 Kam Highway
Aiea, Hawaii 96701
(808) 486-5600

COMICS HAWAII DISTRIBUTION
Haar, Ronald
4420 Lawehana #3
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818
(808) 423-0265

ILLINOIS

COMIC CAVALCADE
Christensen, William
502 East John Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820
(217) 384-2211

KANSAS

THE GATEKEEPER
Colture, Wes / Davis, Monique
2613 S.W. 21st Street
Topeka, Kansas 66604
(913) 232-3429

NEW MEXICO

BRUCE'S COMICS
DeDomenico, Paul / Ellsworth, Bruce
2432 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
(505) 474-0494

TEXAS

R&G COMICS & CARDS
Lack, Gerald
1616 Wisteria
McAllen, Texas 78504
(512) 686-2035 or
(512) 581-0461

HBC COMICS & GAMES INC.
Wilhite, J.R.
17776 Tomball Pkwy., Suite #24
Houston, Texas 77061
(713) 446-1315

LONESTAR COMICS & SCI-FI
Saunders, Buddy
511 East Abram Street
Arlington, Texas 76010
(817) 265-0491

VIRGINIA

RICHMOND COMIX INC.
Miller, Frank
7136 Midlothian Turnpike
Richmond, Virginia 23225
(804) 745-0401

FOR DETAILED INFORMATION, WRITE TO:

PEDRIN CONSERVATORY

P.O. BOX 219 • REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA 94064

FORTRESS, Forty, VTC Shield and Tooths are trademarks of the Pedrin Conservatory. Copyright © 1991. All rights reserved. USA/International Patents Pending.

What's Hot and What's Not

The big hit this summer is going to be the movie Jurassic Park. I expect any book sporting a dinosaur on the cover will likely be moving off the dealers shelves. In order to take full advantage of the promotional hype for dinosaur merchandise generated by the movie, I plan to purchase a large number of dinosaur stickers and place them conspicuously about the covers of those books that we have had in our inventory for far too long.

We also expect to receive premium prices for some of these books because we will be putting together extra special limited edition prints featuring a collage of holographic dinosaur stickers engaged in mortal combat!

Golden Age - On a more serious note, I feel certain that the upcoming auction at Sotheby's in June is going to set some record prices. I'm willing to go out on a limb and predict that the Lloyd Jacquet estate "pay copy" of *Marvel* #1 is going to sell for between $150-$200,000 dollars! Yikes! The commanding price I feel will be due to several reasons. The historical significance and rarity of this copy is probably the most important... only one "pay copy" in this condition or any condition exists. The grade and registration of the book is among/or the best known copy in existence. Finally, the most compelling reason for a sale of this magnitude is the fact that there are some really rich people out there that will be more than happy to spend that much money on a collectible of this importance and rarity! What will the "pay copy" of *Motion Picture Funnies Weekly* #1 sell for, and will it be sold to the same person that acquires the *Marvel* #1? Just think, the 1st edition of the Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide (1970) has *Marvel* #1 in Mint condition priced at $250.

Aqusitions: We recently acquired a small collection of Golden Age consisting of approximately 400 books with conditions all the way from coverless to mint. A quick breakdown of titles are as follows: 180 E.C. books in grades from poor to near mint, 45 Lil Abner books, 24 Dick Tracy Monthlybooks (some very early beauties in this set), 17 Joe Palooka books, 25 Daredevil books, and 14 Archie books. The remainder of the books consist of some key Golden Age first issues and miscellaneous odd or esoteric titles. Individual grades and prices should be available by the time this report is published. If any of you would like to see the entire collection we will be at the Great Eastern Convention in Denver during August.

Recent sales: *Adventure* #337 FN $10, *Avengers* #4 VF $450, *Brave & Bold* #59 FN/VF $30, *Donald Duck* #73 FN/VF $35, *F.C.*#217 *Bugs Bunny* FN $6, *Hulk* #181 VF/NM $260, *Marvel Super Heroes* #12 FN/VF $75, *Mystery in Space* #73 VF $35, *Mystery in Space* #102 NM $15, *Rip Hunter* #9 FN $15, *Showcase* #55 NM/MT $350, #60 VF/NM $150, #61 VG/FN $15, #73 VG/FN $15, *Tales of Suspense* #59 FN $100, #59 FN/VF $125, #65 FN/VF $45, #65 FN/VF $40, #66 FN/VF $45

I wanted to thank those of you who responded to my request for G.I. Joe's from the 60's and 70's. That's all for this month, til next time.

DALE MOORE
2050 Bowser Ave.
Prince George, BC, V2L 3Z9 Canada
(604) 563-5952

Greetings once again from the Canadian West Central Interior! Special thanks this time to Dr. Sparks, Rhonda, and Damien. Also thank you to Cliff Jordan for having me on the radio with you. And Everyone else who helps promote comics in a positive way thanks one million times!! Now onward through the fog.

Golden Age - Most requested are Batmans under #100, especially low grade copies (GD/VG) under #30.

Silver Age - Sales: *Fantastic Four* #1 VF $4000.00, #48 VG $130, #48 FN $250 - *T.O.S.* #52 VF $100 - *T.T.A.* #27 NM $1200, #35 VG $300, #36 VG $150 - *Sgt. Fury* 1-3 set avg. condition FN $350 - *Daredevil* #1 VG $300 - *Flash* #105 GD $375 - *Justice League* #1 FN+ $1000 - *Journey into Mystery* #83 FN $600 - *Showcase* #24 VF $600, #25 NM $100, #30 VF $250, #34 VF- $600 - *Iron Man & Sub Mariner* #1 VF $100 - I suggest collectors pick up low grade keys and high grade commons right now!

1970's - Sold plenty more sets of *Son of Satan* #1-8 NM at $50. People even wanted my GD/VG copies. Eyes on *BWS Conan* #1-16, #20-24, and *Avengers* #98-100.

Current - Valiant: Increased action for *Rai* #0-8, and *X-O Manowar* #1-16 sets. I am beginning to see a horizon for high priced Valiants. Image: *Spawn* #1-10 sets move well in the $75-$100 range. *Youngblood* #1 $20. My favorite new comics are *Batman Animated Series* and *Brigade* #1.

Getting a word in edgewise dept.- I think this whole Gold-Platinum-Silver-Etc. stuff is being blown totally out of proportion. To the Companies: Thanks for the generous incentives/gifts but for future reference, give us a break! I don't order 100 copies of *Blankface* #1 so I can get the free Gold Edition. I order them because I can sell them. Like "chase" trading cards, the new Valiant/Image market seems to be "Chase Comics". Most retailers sell their premium freebies for, well, premium prices. That's fine, as it is a buyer's market, but is seems to hurt regular sales by putting a large amount of the collector's dollar into an artificial collectible.

Junior spends $100 on the *Platinum Yuckman* #0 1/2 instead of at least twenty regular issues that month. Assuming that an average of one "Chase Comic" is released every month, to collect them all will cost Junior $1,200 this year! Also, he will miss two hundred and forty regular issues, if each of them were $5 each!! Personal kudos to all the retailers who give their "Chase Comics" to regular customers or promotional areas, and charity benefits

Well, it's that time again. So until that older, distinguished, blue-eyed gentleman offers me one million dollars to spend the night with my personal collection, Make Mine Overstreet!! P.S. I really like the new look

MICHAEL R. TAYLOR
Fantasy Zone Comics
7610 Post Road
North Kingstown, RI 02852
(401) 294-6044

Marvel - In my opinion the hottest books I see are 1970-1975 Marvel Comics in the #1-10 issue range. Series include Tomb of Dracula, Werewolf By Knight, Marvel Team-Up and so on. These books and other mid to long range series may not be going on anymore, but in many cases these series have character first appearances or characters who are now getting a second chance (e.g. Ghost Rider and soon to be Nova). These books are also now twenty years old and may already be hard to find in high grades. Mark my words... these books disappear within hours when I get them. I also think they are also some of the best reading books ever published.

DC - Sixties DC's are a good buy if you can get them in the low fine or higher grades. These books include Legion of Super-Heroes, Atom, Hawkman and the like. They can still be found and their average price is usually significantly lower than their Marvel counterparts. In my opinion these books are just as good a read, if not better, and in most cases are seriously under-valued. I have many people who are priced out of Marvel and are looking for an alternative. They may have never considered DC until lately.

Gold Key - Buy 'em if you can find 'em.

Dell - Pick it up if it deals with movies and/or TV (see Gold Key).

Gambling On New Books - The proliferation of new comics and new comic companies is enough to send even the most die hard owner over the edge. The glut of new books and special covers and new number ones makes it all that more difficult for dealers to steer the investor in the right direction. Ten to fifteen years ago the informed dealer had a pretty good shot at predicting which books would increase in value. Today with the rapid increase and decrease of new books over such short periods of time, the book a dealer recommends may shoots up and then plummet. This can leave a collector with a bad taste about the hobby. The point is today's books are a gamble at best, even under the best of conditions Investors have about as much chance of making short term "big" money as they do hitting the lottery or getting a date with Madonna. On that note, good luck to you until next month.

GREG PHARIS
San Diego Comics & Collectibles
6937 El Cajon Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92115
(619) 698-1177

Welcome from San Diego!

New Comics - What's hot? Batman is sizzling right now, especially *Batman* #497 at $10. Tragedy sells. Look for all Batmans leading up to and including #50 to fly off the shelves. Marvels' Maximum Carnage 14-part

AND THE WINNER IS...

TO BE ANNOUNCED IN
ARCOMICS READERS' CHOICE!

BE SURE TO VOICE YOUR CHOICE! YOU DECIDE WHICH TITLE WILL APPEAR FIRST. DETAILS CAN BE FOUND IN *ARCOMICS PREMIERE #1*. SO GO OUT AND GRAB A COPY! AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, TELL YOUR RETAILER TO ORDER THE *ARCOMICS READERS' CHOICE* -- YOUR CHOICE!

ARComics ™ **are your comics!**

TM & COPYRIGHT 1993 TERRANCE HENRY, RALPH LUMLEY, AND ARCOMICS INC

series is selling very well, and the "X"-mutant titles are picking-up steam. *Image* #1's sell very strong, but will subsequent issues sell as well?

What's not hot? Marvel's Heavy Hitter Epic line is leading the "what's not" pack. Heavy Hitters? More like dead weight. Marvel's UK line is close behind the DC's Milestone books are in the show position.

Golden and Silver Age - Acquisitions: This has been a great month. We have picked up *Amazing Spiderman #2 - 70, Atom #3 - 8, All Select #11, Justice League #1 - 4, Strange Tales #68, Eerie #1, Captain America #57* VF sold $375, #59 VF+ sold $825, 15 assorted Wings comics, *Superman* #53 VF+ - restored, *Batman* #3 F+ - restored, *Blond Phantom* #12, *Jungle Tales* #1 - 7, *Lorna* #1 - 26, *Four Color* #173, #424, and over 200 DC War Books from 1955-1966.

Collectors Corner - For those of you who collect mascot/animal appearances, check out *Tomahawk* #62. It's the first appearance of **Tracker the Frontier War Dog**. Tracker returns in #69, 72, and 75. #75 is my favorite because the talented pooch (get this) outwits **White Fang, the Indian War Dog!** Also in Tomahawk, during that same time period, is issue #61 which features **The Frontier Chimp.** Issue 65 sports a beautiful grey-tone cover. That's is for now. Have fun!

STEVE SIBRA
Rocket Comics
8544 Greenwood Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98103
(206) 784-7300

Hi collectors! Here's my report on the north Seattle market as of early June, regarding what's hot and what's not:

Recent - Valiant comics are still popular but demand is nothing like it was a few months ago. I think this is good news investment-wise for Valiant! If these comics can manage to stay popular and maintain reasonably strong demand, as opposed to burning brightly then burning out, they stand a good chance of being around for awhile. Some Image titles are still selling quite well but the failure of this company to ship its books on time is hurting interest in new issues as well as back issues. Many Image titles sit on the shelves now for weeks.

Many of the recent mainstays of the last few years are definitely in the "not hot" category these days. Punisher comics are very dead with back issues selling only at half-price convention sales, and then only sporadically. Likewise no demand for McFarlane issues of Spider-Man, whether they be bagged, silver, gold or what-have-you. Are the collectors waking up to the crass limitations of these gimmicks? One can only hope so. McFarlane issues of Amazing move a bit better. DC's Milestone line, while a worthy idea, seems to be missing the mark in practice. Many customers greeted these books with enthusiasm but virtually all my subscription customers have dropped the entire line.

Silver Age and '70s - Master of Kung Fu, of all things, is picking up in demand. Perhaps the new biographical Bruce Lee movie is responsible? Also worth noting is a slight stirring in interest in the "classic" New X-Men (i.e. issues 94 through 140). These one-time money-in-the-bank'ers have been dormant for a number of years now, but with much more recent issues now selling for almost as much in a number of cases, collectors are re-discovering these books again. And why not? These are excellent stories, often with inspired artwork!

I've had something of a "land-rush" (so to speak) on the Warren material lately, especially *Vampirella*. But *Eerie* and *Creepy* are moving also. These are still quite inexpensive for their quality. Oddball mid-60's Charltons have found some new homes recently also Last week, for example, two collectors purchased a couple of stacks of $2 - $5 copies of titles like *Judo Master, Mysteries of Unexplored Worlds, Space Adventures, Fightin' Five*, etc. With both '60s Marvel and DCs hitting the higher price ranges, it seems much easier these days to sell Charlton, Gold Key, etc., titles.

In the "less than hot" category, I would file the Silver Age Dr. Strange books (#'s 169 to 183)... even in high grade these don't seem to interest many folks. Also some of the later 12¢ DC "key" issues appear overpriced—books like *Batman* #171, *Batman* #200 and even the earlier *Green Lantern* #40 are very hard to sell. These books (especially the Batman's) may be just too plentiful in high grade to command these prices. I think of this as the "*Amazing Spiderman* #129 syndrome".

Perhaps the most perplexing Silver Age price currently is the value ascribed tot he Eclipso issues of *House of Secrets* (#'s 66 through 80). Virtually every DC Silver Age collector I've come in contact with expresses the same lack of comprehension for the prices on these comics. Are collectors paying fifty-five dollars for any Eclipso book? Most collectors hereabouts find these to be second-class stories about a second-rate DC character. I certainly haven't seen a demand locally for these issues. Ah well, just callin' 'em the way I see 'em, here in Seattle.

Thanks for reading and see you next time

RICK WILSON
CORY RAYBORN
Rick's Dugout
117 West White Drive
Archdale, NC 27263
(919) 431-6825

The Summer is finally here and therefore the big comic boom time will be upon us. As a retailer, this boom is already being felt in the sheer amount of titles that are shipping these upcoming few months. I believe that this summer will truly make or break many of the newer companies on the market becauseof the fact that there is going to be simply so much stuff out there to choose from. Be Cautious.

New Comics - Image: It still sells in phenomenal amounts even thought there haven't been any enormous sellers since the last report. Instead what we are seeing is a type of consistency. Concerning things that have been on the newsstands of late with the Image imprint include: *Deathblow #1* with a stunning cover by Jim Lee, *Shaman's Tears #1* selling to the untypical Image reader, and *Shadowhawk II #1* with an interesting cover. People are still waiting for the latest issue of *Spawn*, as is always the case with this the most popular of the Image titles. I easily expect the Deathmate crossover with Valiant to be some of the strongest selling books over the summer months.

Valiant: The serial number contest (very interesting and innovative I might add, win the entire run...) has been a very unique to the already popular Valiant stable. Consistency, which has always been a Valiant trademark, is still the case with this company Interest is already high for the upcoming *Secret Weapons #1* and *Second Life of Doctor Mirage #1* (which was not at all hurt by the recent *Shadowman* #16). The Deathmate enthusiasm is running high here as well for this high-octane crossover. Some good recent books include the first full appearance of Ninjak in his costume in *Bloodshot #7*, the first appearance of Doctor Mirage in *Shadowman* #16, and the recent split of Solar in that title with the same name

Marvel: I'll sum it up simply: if it's not a mutant book or does not contain Spider-Man, it doesn't sell, end of story. Both *Deadpool* and *Sabretooth #1* look to be pretty good books.

DC: Batman is the big hype here. The last issue of the Knightfall crossover which we got, *Batman* #497, was an instant sell out because of the breaking of Batman's back. Vertigo still sells well to a consistent core audience and this stuff is great.

Independents: Deathwatch 2000 is so-so, we have yet to see the Comics Greatest World from Dark Horse, and the Ultraverse is having mixed reviews in the pre-delivery stages. The only independent that is going to meet definite success is Jim Shooter's Defiant. I have read *Plasm #0* and it is a very interesting book, catching up right where he left off at Valiant. It's going to be good.

Recent Back Issues - Image: Seeing as the print runs are so big on all of this stuff there is no real shortage on any of this stuff. The only issues that are demanding premium prices are *Shadowhawk #1* and the first six issues of *Spawn*. McFarlane has pulled off a winner with this title and some back issue prices include *#1* at $9, *#2* at $6, 3 at $6, and *#4* at $9. Everything else that they have ever issued sells well at or slightly above cover price.

Valiant: The back-issue beast has finally taken a breather. While the more expensive Valiant back stock still sells, it is not anywhere as fast or fanatical as it was, say, two months ago. Some recent sales include: *Archer and Armstrong #2* at $16, *Bloodshot #1* at $12, *Bloodshot #6* at $8, *Bloodshot #7* at $5, *Eternal Warrior #5* at $16, *Eternal Warrior #6* at $8, *Harbinger #14* at $9, *Rai #0* at $18, *Turok #1* signed by Bart Sears at $20, *Shadowman #8* at $11, *Shadowman #16* at $6, and *X-O Manowar #1* at $35.

Cash Paid For Historic "Ashcans!"

Do you have an unidentifiable comic with an odd black & white cover and color interior?

It may be an historic "ashcan!"

In the early days of comic book publishing, there was a never-ending battle between highly competitive businessmen to lay claim to every conceivable comic book title. In order to properly register the title with the copyright office in Washington DC, publication of the book was required.

In the heat of competition, crafty comic book publishers developed a system to fool the government into believing that the book had been produced. They produced "ashcan" comics! These "imposters" existed only for legal registration and were never sold.

"Ashcans" usually had black and white covers (often Velox prints) stapled to color interiors from previously printed comics.

One "ashcan" comic was rushed to the copyright office in Washington DC to register the title and logo art. Another was placed in the publisher's files. Often extra "ashcans" were made and given to editors and other employees as souvenirs. Sometimes these rarities surface in today's comics collector marketplace.

Recently signed and numbered limited edition "ashcans" have appeared on the collectors market. Though highly desirable, these modern-day collectibles are not traditional "ashcan" editions.

Genuine historical "ashcans" are by definition among the rarest of comic books.

If you aren't sure that the book you have is an "ashcan" or not — please call me toll-free at **800-344-6060**. I'll help you identify your book and gladly make an offer.

Gary Colabuono

Moondog's

1201 Oakton St.
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

(800) 344-6060

Marvel. There is absolutely no story to tell here at all.

DC: Let me tell you about some Batprices: *Batman* #488 at $10, *Batman* #489 at $9, *Batman* #491 at $9, *Batman* #492 at $8, *Batman* #497 at $5, *Sword of Azrael* #1 at $15 and #'s 2-4 at $12 each I haven't had a Vengeance of Bane in a while.

Independents: Nothing

Enjoy your Summer!!

PHIL HOOVER
Comics & Comix
921 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 442-5142

Hello from northern California. As the summer nears, I'm sure we are all expecting big things and big sales. So away we go

Golden Age - Although we're not seeing a lot of these books, what does come through literally storms out the door. We truly try to price forties books at or near guide, but as they get harder to stock, we have to pay the seller his price and make adjustments from there. Some recent sales include: *USA* #4 GD $150, *Superman* #54 GD- $50, and a *Marvel Family* #1 VG $250.

Silver Age - There is still quite a bit of movement going on out there, with Spider-Man comics under #100 being perhaps the most popular. *Fantastic Four*, *X-Men*, and *Silver Surfer* are also hot when in high grade. Lower grade issues sell well when discounted. *Thor* is warm as are key issues of *Suspense*, *Astonish* and *Strange Tales*. Warlock (Him) appearances from this era are also hot. Cold are *Hulk*, *Daredevil* and *The Avengers*.

Recent sales: *Amazing Spider-Man* #1 GD $875, *Amazing Fantasy* #15 GD $950, *Silver Surfer* #4 FN $200.

Most of the DC books from this time sell well. The public doesn't see that many, when compared to Marvel, are really inexpensive, so the collectors scoop these books up for fear of not ever seeing another. All the Superman titles prior to 1968 sell promptly including high grade Jimmy Olsens and Lois Lanes. Flash and Showcase also move well, with Green Lantern and JLA moving a little slower. (JSA appearances in JLA being the exception). The Bat books seem to be in a rut right now, with most buyers trying to make a deal. The books that I think should be watched are World's Finest and Wonder Woman. These titles circa 1958 to 1972 are nearly impossible to find in high grade and are still fairly cheap if they can be had at Overstreet prices.

Recent DC sales include, *Jimmy Olsen* #100 GD $11, *Spectre* #1 VG $37, *Showcase* #60 GD $35, *Adventure* #267 PR $25.

Post Silver Age - Spider-Man is still king here, with #100-#102 (Morbius) selling almost as soon as we get them. #121, #122 also move quickly. *Defenders* #1-10 and *Conan* #1-24 are also hot, with waiting lists for NM Conans. Still moving well are Warlock books and Warlock appearances, especially the Starlin issues. Starlin Capt. Marvels are also still moving well. Son of Satan issues are being asked about often, with people now realizing *Ghost Rider* #1 is his first appearance.

The only DC books from this period worth mentioning are the Kirby books and the Neal Adams Green Lanterns and Batmans. (the latter only in high grade). Nice looking Kirby Fourth World books are always popular, as are Kamandi and the Demon. In fact we aren't really seeing too many high grade Demons these days. Kirby Jimmy Olsens (where the whole Fourth World story started by the way) are being requested often as collectors recognized their significance.

Recent sales: *Demon* #1 VF $18, *Mister Miracle* #1 FN $8, *Detective* #400 VG $10.

Modern Era - Things are changing so fast that it's almost impossible to keep up. The deluge of new product is making ordering more than a little difficult, not to mention the strain it's putting on the consumer who is trying to decide what to keep up with, what to drop, etc. My biggest fear is that people will throw up their arms in disgust and quit collecting all together. It was only a couple of years ago that the same thing happened to the card market

At DC, *Superman* is indeed alive and well even if the first five chapters of the resurrection story line didn't sell as well as many would have liked In our Sacramento location, the subsequent issues are selling at near X-Men levels. The bagged #75 sells briskly at $25. Batman is heating up right now with the Knightfall storyline. #497 sold out in large quantities in a matter of days, and people are begging for more. Recent back issues are hot as well with #488 selling for $12, #489-491 at $8, and #492 (Knightfall part one) at $10. *Sword of Azrael* #1 sells quickly at $25, and *Vengeance of Bane* at $20. The Vertigo line is selling about the same as before the name change, although the Death mini series sold great, with a platinum #1 going at auction for $115. Sandman is also going strong.

At Marvel the X-Men are exploding again with the popularity of the TV cartoon. New issues sell out in days and recent inexpensive back issues blow out the bins as soon as we stock them. #4-7 of the new series are particularly hot, selling for upwards of $7. *Omega Red* is hot. The related X- titles are also increasing in sales with only Cable straggling along behind. The *Spider-Man* titles are holding their own as is *Hulk*, *Doom 2099* and *Silver Surfer Hellstorm* is picking up steam and the interest of the Vertigo crowd. The other horror hero books are dying though. including *Ghost Rider*

Over at Image, the hottest book is still *Spawn*. And is it any wonder? It seems to be the only book in the line that comes out on anything resembling a regular schedule #1 sells for $7, as does #2. #3. #4 sells for $12 each with #5 and #6 selling for $5. *Deathblow* looks like it could be another winner if it comes out on time. The *Youngblood* books as well as *Shadow Hawk II*, *Wildstar*, *Shamans Tears* and the *Maxx* have all sold well, but i'm sure they could all sell better with increased publication frequency.

Valiant back issues appear to be slowing in some of our stores, while the new issues are slowly increasing in sales. *Turok*, *Bloodshot*, *Magnus*, *Solar* and *Hard Corps*. are picking up with X-O following right behind. Most of our stores are hesitant to pay top dollar for back issues right now, and in many cases are selling most books at or below guide. There are some exceptions, most notably *Rai* #3, and #4 at $65 each.

Dark Horse is slowing down with the exception of Next Men and Star Wars. (Still being sought as a back issue). Defiant's books are anxiously awaited while The Ultra-Verse seems to be leaving many of our customers cold. Most of the other independents have small, but loyal followings, but I wonder how long they can last in the vast sea of comics with such low sales. Well, that's about it for now, so until next time, keep on collecting

DAN FOGEL/JIM PITTS/RICK CALOU
Comic Detectives
P O Box 11991
Berkeley, CA 94701
(510) 526-5329

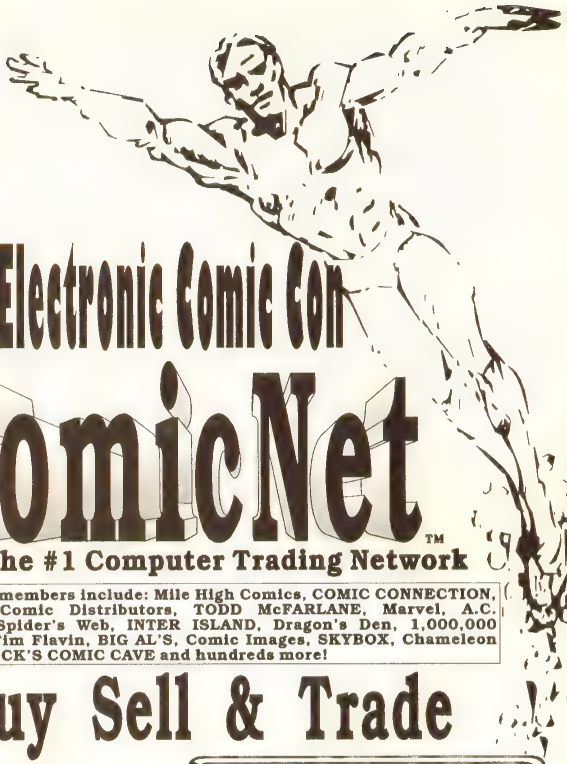
Greetings again from Berkeley, California! Sales overall are on the upswing, as we continue hoping for a worldwide economic recovery. We think that a united Europe should have a single currency, namely high grade Silver Age! Zut alors, and 'ere ees notre reportage...

Golden Age - Good Lord (choke)! EC's are back from the dead! *Haunt of Fear* #20 in VG shambled away fro $25, and *Two Fisted Tales* #'s 36 & 37 in GD & GD- were a double hitter at $15 each.

Silver Age - Still our best sales area, and our main focus. Mostly DC's this time around, but we see *Thors* and *Captain Americas* picking up: for example, *Thor* #'s 165 & 166 in VG sold for $18 the pair, and *Captain America* #112 in GD+ for only $8. We've just dug up a very nice early run of Silver Age "Cap's", so watch us next time to see how they do. Perhaps due to the new series, The Spectre has again risen from the dead and is slaying poor sales! At one con alone, we've just sold a *Spectre* #1 in VG for $25, a #2 in VF/NM for $30, a #2 in VG for (another!) $30, and a #3 in VF/NM for $20. Adams Deadman in *Strange Adventures* is also doing the Lazarus bit, with a #209 in NM bringing in $20, and a #210 in VF selling for $15. *Brave and the Bolds* live up to their name with a #59 in FN+ racking up $30, and #'s 56 and 74, both in GD, for a bargain $7 the pair.

Bronze (Post Silver) Age - Still a growing area of sales, but inconsistent in volume. Recent movers include a smattering of *Avengers* such as #101 in GD for a bargain $2, and a group sale of #'s 116 in VF+, 181, 186 and *Annual* #18 (all MT) for $14. Other sales include *Heroes for Hope* staring the X-Men in MT for only $3.50, and *Longshot* #2 in NM. priced to sell at $8. As for Undergrounds in this area, we are moving autographed first printings of *Cherry Poptart* #1 at $50 a pop(tart)!

Modern Age - We only sell this stuff as



The Electronic Comic Con

ComicNet™

Join The #1 Computer Trading Network

Gebhardt '93

Our 2,500 members include: Mile High Comics, COMIC CONNECTION, Diamond Comic Distributors, TODD McFARLANE, Marvel, A.C. COMICS, Spider's Web, INTER ISLAND, Dragon's Den, 1,000,000 COMICS, Tim Flavin, BIG AL'S, Comic Images, SKYBOX, Chameleon Comics, RICK'S COMIC CAVE and hundreds more!

Buy Sell & Trade

* **COMICS**
* **CARDS**
* **SUPPLIES**
* **INFORMATION**

"I've never found a better place to BUY & SELL COMIC BOOKS than ComicNet!" - Dave, 1,000,000 Comics

☐ I'm a Dealer ☐ I'm a Collector — Yes, please send a brochure.

NAME: _____
Please Print

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, ST, ZIP: _____

PHONE: ( ) _____

Mail to:
ComicNet
21 Charles Street
Westport, CT 06880

CBM

#800-821-9275

back issues, not as new ones, but what moves, moves! Random samplings include: *Amazing Spider-Man* #270 in MT for $3, *Annual* #11 in VG+ for $3, *New Titans* #'s 71 and 75 in MT for $3 each, *Marvel Comics Presents* #75 for $3, *The Wasteland* graphic novel in NM for $8, (adjectiveless) *Spider-Man* #'s 1 (2nd print) in NM for $5, #3 in MT for $4, and #26 in MT for $3.50. *Wildcats* #1 in NM sold for a bargain $3. *Black Orchid* #1 in NM went for $4, and *The Ray* #6 in MT brought in $3.

Non-Sports Cards and Toys - These bring in good money at some otherwise slow cons. Card sales include a Bettie Page first set for $10, and a signed, numbered, limited edition sealed Marvel Universe #3 tin for $45. Among our toy sales were a 1960's lead Batman mold for $10, a 1989 Applause stuffed Mighty Mouse doll for $10, a group sale of a Batman bike reflector, PVC figure, and spinner pen to a happy grandma for a bargain $6, an Applause Batmobile and a Bat logo mug for $4 a piece, and a group sale of action figures consisting of a NMOC (Near Mint On Cardboard) Super Powers Penguin, Secret Wars Captain America, Doctor Doom, Doctor Octopus, and Archie Adventure Series Comet and Shield figures (all VF+ off the card, but with the cardboards) for a rock-bottom, pay the bills price of $35 the lot.

See ya next month for more "swell" info, and remember to pay that Social Security on your part-time help!

CURT COLLINS
Star Store
4212 North State Street
Jackson, MS 39206
(601) 362-8001

This is an exiting (and maybe even a little dangerous) time to be collecting comics. The Market for new comics has seen unprecedented, explosive growth. Unfortunately, the production of new material has grown even faster than the market. I think a thinning out of both of publishers and retailers is coming.

This thinning of the market is natural and necessary to the evolution of market. There could be some fabulous bargains at a few going out of business sales here and there.

It won't necessarily be bad for collectors either. Get your want list ready, then duck and cover!

Golden Age - Sales in our area have been limited due to a shortage of material, chiefly super hero comics in high grades. The main sellers have been the comics with well known humor, celebrity, or movie characters. Notable examples are Little Lulu, Four Color, John Wayne comics and movie based Western comics

Silver Age - Demand is up on *Batman* and *X-Men*, likely due to the popularity of their animated series on television. Other popular titles are *Amazing Spider-Man, Showcase, Fantastic Four, DC Eighty Page Giants* and *Gold Key* hero comics.

Bronze Age - the current popularity of *X-Men, Amazing Spider-Man,* and the revivals of *Morbius* and the *Defenders* have made the originals of these series highly sought after. Other series from this period currently in demand are the 1970's Marvel horror titles like *Frankensein* and *Werewolf by Night.*

Modern - Recent back issue sales are for the most part a mirror of new comic sales - a funhouse mirror. *X-Men, Spawn* and *X-O* sell, but so do *Star Trek, Quasar, New Titans* and *Hellblazer.* These books sell consistently and are much harder to find and restock than the mega-hits.

Propaganda - Comic collecting is investing in entertainment. Popularity may fade but quality never goes out of style.

BILL TOWNSEND
Electric City Comics
1704 VanVranken Ave
Schenectady, NY 12308
(518) 377-1500

Hello, I'm back after a short absence, and I'd like to re-introduce myself. My name is Bill Townsend and I own Electric City Comics, which consists of two stores in Schenectady, New York. I've been a reader and collector of comics for about 25 years, and a retailer of them for almost 12 years.

Schenectady has a population of about 60,000 and our customer base is probably about three times that. Schenectady is another one of those formerly-industrial Northeast cities that is having some problems coping with life at the end of the 20th century. Times are a little tough here, and they have been for a while. Schenectady is also part of New York's Capital District, which includes probably over a million people, if you count all the suburbs.

My retail stores carry new comics and magazines and specialize in back issues. We carry cards, posters and other paraphernalia only under protest. I do shows very seldom, but often go as a buyer. We do very little mail order. My concerns are primarily those of a comic retailer, not a show dealer or a mail order house. now on to the market report.

New Books - Talking to other retailers and going to shows I have been hearing many nasty, dirty four letter words, the most frequent among them are "glut" and "dump".

At some local shows I have seen the current week's books, only 72 hours old, being sold for half cover to the general public. The "hottest" books of April (read: most ordered) *Adventures of Superman* #500 and *Turok* #1 I saw selling at less than 25% of cover.

I talked to a couple of people who were just getting into dealing or who were people selling their own collections and they were getting murdered by the other dealers who were dumping their inventory at below cost.

I'm seeing the comic marketplace currently going through a violent upheaval the likes of which I have never seen before. The great flood of new material is causing people to be much choosier in what they buy, and their buying patterns are getting harder to predict. Compared to this, the Black & White Boom/Bust of the mid-1980's was just a mild hiccup.

Taking the heaviest hits are the Marvel books. Marvel had such a commanding market position that they had the most to lose. I feel like The list of the new Marvel books is like a catalogue of disappointments: Cable, Hellstorm, Heavy Hitters, Warlock Chronicles, 2099 Unlimited, the 1993 Annuals, etc, etc.

There are a couple of successes among these (Venom, X-Men Unlimited, Spider-Man Unlimited), but even these are available at half cover at every show I've been to. Even more disturbing is the fact that Marvel is losing its reputation as the company that made the trains run on time. Many of their high profile books are close to a month off schedule.

Surprisingly, DC seems to be consolidating their position, and even making some gains. Suddenly "the company that couldn't do anything right" is now doing very little that is wrong. As far as recent books go, their Azrael and Knightfall books seem to be the only ones being sold at far over cover, not under it. The Bloodlines annuals seem to be selling well, but not overwhelmingly so.

Valiant back issues continue to fly and the first appearances of Ninjak (*Bloodshot* #6 & 7) and Doctor Mirage (*Shadowhawk* #16) just flew off the shelves. However, Valiant new issue sales continue to be sluggish, a bad sign. Also the hoopla over *Turok* #1 and some other Valiant pronouncements have not exactly given me, as a retailer, a warm, fuzzy feeling.

I, too, ordered a few too many *Turok* #1's and I didn't expect to be able to return them, but Valiant's attitude on the question leaves me cold. The message to retailers is clear: (to paraphrase Machiavelli) "Put not your faith in publishers."

Now that we're seeing more than one Image book every two weeks people are getting a lot more choosy about the Image books they buy Both *Deathblow* and *Tribe* did poorly here, but *Shaman's Tears* did better than I thought it would.

I'm wondering how all the projects that are coming out this summer are going to do. *Deathmate* seems like a sure winner, but if everyone goes crazy on it, we'll all get left holding the bag again.

Back Issues - Over the last six months I have been going through the back issue stock at both stores It has been a Herculean task, and if you had told me that it was going to take six months when I started, I probably would never have begun. It's like I went on a safari through the back issue jungle, and now I'm back alive to tell the tale

I basically came to a bunch of contradictory conclusions. Like: Everything will sell eventually, but you may have to wait a long, long time to sell it. There is too much of everything but there is never enough of what you can really sell.

Silver Age has passed its peak, but several Silver Age books will have record prices paid for them this year.

As I went through all those books, I noticed with dismay all the formerly hot books that were just sitting around, some of them at a fraction of their previous guide prices. I wracked my brains, trying to think

For Collectors and Investors Alike...

COMICS BY MAIL!

If you're looking for those hard-to-find issues...LOOK NO MORE!

Specializing in Golden and Silver Age

BUY • SELL • TRADE

COMIC INVESTMENTS

America's largest back-issue stock!
All orders are fully guaranteed!

14-day unconditional return policy • Strict grading
Immediate order processing • Damage-proof mailers • Excellent customer service

Call, write or fax for your **FREE** catalog:

TEL: (410) 646-0114 FAX: (410) 646-0130

Comic Investments: P.O.Box 588, Ellicott City, MD USA 21041

of a book that was hot three years ago that had held its value

Actually I came up with a few, but they were all *Uncanny X-Men* or *Amazing Spider-Man*, which are the two "blue chip" titles. Year in, year out, these two titles are always my #1 and #2 back issue sellers. About 1/8 of all the back issues I sell are from those two titles.

However, I came up with a lengthy list of things that did not hold their value. They are: canceled titles, one-shot art jobs by a hot artist, hot artist books in general, one-shot hot character appearances in an unrelated title, and actually hot character appearances in general. Anybody looking for Joker appearances now? What will be the fate of Venom appearances in, say, nine months, hmm?

For all this I have to say that back issue sales are quite good. A little of everything is selling over a pretty broad range. Using my computer I was able to do a statistical analysis of back issue sales over the last two years. Compared with this time last year and in 1991, back issue sales are doing very well indeed, however the overwhelming majority of the stuff that sells is three years old or less. And this means that what is selling now will be in limbo three years from now.

A disturbing statistic: Of the top forty back issue titles, 16 of them are losing ground at quite a noticeable rate and 15 of that 16 are Marvel titles. Of the 16 gaining ground to take their place, only 3 are Marvels. Oh dear, how will this look in the next quarterly report?

It is almost as if everyone has realized just how common Marvel books are. They are everywhere. A Marvel first issue used to be a special event, not it seems like there is at least one every week. I think that Marvel has finally succeeded in killing the goose that laid the golden egg.

Silver Age - Most collectors regard Silver Age books as quaint, outdated and too expensive. This attitude used to frustrate and mystify me until I realized with horror that the books that I first started reading, the ones that got me hooked on comics, are now almost as old as *Action Comics* #1 was when I was a child. As a kid I thought Golden Age stuff was kind of clunchy. Of course now I've had a chance to see a lot of Golden Age, I've changed my mind, but that's only because it's my job.

To give you an idea, a customer in his early twenties came into one of my stores, asking about this new artist who was doing those new books for Topps. Did I have anything else by this Jack Kirby fellah?

What sells for me, as far as older books go is what has always sold. Oddball horror and westerns, Dell Four Colors and Disney books. As long as they are reasonably priced, they tend to disappear in a month or two. As long as the book is in decent shape and is prices below $12, it has feet.

However, the superhero stuff is starting to slow down. Even Silver Age DC is sitting. DC is much harder to find than Marvel but buyers are much harder to find as well.

All I can recommend is be careful, don't speculate, and buy what you like. Have a good time, but get out alive.

TONY STARKS
4100 Forrest Green Dr.
Newburgh, IN 47630
(819) 858-5516

Hello again from Southern Indiana!

New Books - While new comics comprise the majority of sales in comic shops, there is a glut of new material at shows. Many dealers are setting up with just new material, and by the end of the show books like *Turok* #1, *Magnus* #25 or *Spider-Man Unlimited* are being sold for less than wholesale. *Turok* #1 is often available at $1.50, and I have seen *Spider-Man Unlimited* as low as $1 collectors that resisted paying cover price on these books saved some money, but someone has to be losing money selling comics below wholesale.

Valiants continue to sell well, but there is resistance to many of the books over $75., with *Magnus* #12 an exception. It sells quickly at $100. Despite very small (5,000 copies) print runs, the Gold Valiants are slow movers. They are plentiful at shows - at any given moment I think 4,900 of the 5,000 copies must be for sale.

Recent Sales: *Eternal Warrior* #4, $18; *Harbinger* #3, $45; #14, $9; *Solar* #3, $35; I could easily sell *X-O Manowar* #4 for $35 if I had one.

Future Picks - The free *Plasm* #0 included with the June previews generated a lot of interest and a rush for copies. Jim Shooter certainly knows how to generate excitement. Expect Defiant to do well and this first comic by them to be sought after. I'd advise collectors to not cut *Plasm* #0 out of the catalogue, but leave it inside, at least for the time being.

1970's Comics - They continue to sell well, and I've noticed an increase in the Marvel female titles such as *Ms. Marvel*, *She Hulk* and *Red Sonja*. Buy them now, the prices are often times less than cover price of new comics.

Inexpensive Silver Age ($15 or less) continues to sell well. Gold Key's hero/adventure line is in great demand, led by *Doctor Solar*, *Magnus*, and *Star Trek*. Not far behind are titles like *Lost In Space*, *Mighty Sampson*, and even *Doctor Spector*. Interest in Charlton's superhero comics from the 1960's is also picking up. Collectors are realizing these comics are almost 30 years old and are very affordable.

Finally, a few comments about the new format for the Comic Book Monthly. While I love having three prices, I would prefer those prices were for GD-FN-NM. Not only is this what I'm used to, but I find it much easier to calculate the VG & VF prices from GD-FN-NM than it is to calculate GD and FN from VG-VF-NM.

I also appreciate all the new listings - its definitely time to list the Gold Key, Charlton, and Harvey Superhero titles. Plus the printing in the price guide also seems sharper and easier to read. That's all for now.

GREG WHITE
Comics Books & Collectibles
615 N Main St.
Kissimmee, FL 34744
(407) 870-0400

Greetings from the land of Mickey and Donald! I hope your summer has not been as warm as ours. As always our view points are based on retail store sales and convention activity.

New Books - Sales remain strong. It continues to amaze and sadden me how many customers are purchasing comic books that they have no intention of reading, they simply buy, board, & bag the books, then sit and wait for their chance to make a killing. Even after we explain the reality of todays marketplace, is seems to makes little difference. I suggest collectors take the time to read their books (novel thought huh?)

DC: Reign of Superman and Knightfall continue to be DC's only strong points. Even Sandman sales are lagging. Vertigo has also been a disappointment. As a life long Batman collector it hurt me to see that @#$%& " page in *Batman* #497 where my hero had his spine broken. I'm afraid the editor at DC has been reading too much of Shadowhawk lately. Too bad!

Marvel: Sales remain strong across the board. X-Titles, Spider-Man and special covers lead the way with the Midnight Massacre Series also off to a good start. Marvel continues to push the right buttons.

Valiant and Image. They continue to sell in good number, however I am disappointed that the Valiant serial number contest has not spurred more sales. Also Image's continual trend to ship late proves irritating to most of my customers. Where the heck is *Image #0*?

Dark Horse, Topps, Now, Innovation and Malibu: They sell sporadically. Nothing great. Also Gladstone's takeover of the Disney books has meant little here at the cash register (so far).

Recent Back Issue Sales: Valiant and Marvel lead the way. We still are not able to maintain a large selection of early Valiant, they sell within days. Recent sales: *Harbinger* #0 $125; *X-O* #1 $35; *Magnus* #12 $75; *Rai* #0 $22; *Solar* #1 $28; *Magnus* #1 $32; *Wolverine* #1 $23; *Batman* #488 $5; *Superman* #75 bagged $20; *Amazing Spiderman* #361 $11; *X-Men* #266 $25; *Hulk* #340 $30; *WildC A.T.S.* #1 Gold $60.

Golden Age Comics - Recent sales have been strong. Funny how just a couple weeks can make a difference. As always restocking books from this period is difficult.

Recent sales: *Police Comics* #8 VG-FN $195; *Daredevil* #12 VG $125; *Pep Comics* #2 VG $150; *Dollman* #3 VG $75; *USA Comics* #2 $495; *Ghost Rider* #11 FN-VF $35; *Comic Calvacade* #16 FR $35; *Rocket to the Moon* FN $195; *100 Pages of Comics* 1937 VG $125.

Silver Age Comics - No change here. High grades and keys are the word. Wish we could purchase more for resale. Middle of the road Silver Age sales have picked up in recent weeks, hopefully a positive sign for the near future.

WALL TO WALL COMICS

For a fabulous selection of
Golden Age and Silver Age
comic books for sale,
plus all the latest comics,
stop by our convenient location
in the Los Angeles area.

24228 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrence, CA 90505
(310) 326-2230

Recent sales: *Superman Annuals* #1-8 GD-VG $175; *Iron Man* #1 NM $400; *FF* #48, 49, 50 VF-NM $700; *House of Terror* 3-D $75; *JLA* #3 GD $40; *Amazing Spider-Man* #9 VG-FN $150; #48 VF $36; *Batman* #131 VG-FN $60.

Original Artwork & Toys - We continue to build up this area at both our stores. Comic and Sci-Fi related toys are popular.

Recent sales: Hanna Barbera Flinstones multi-cel setup $100; Gil Kane Green Lantern Pencil & Ink drawing $45, Corgi Batmobile loose $60; Aurora Batmobile built up $100; Hans Solo carbonite on card $95; Klingon on card $50; Robin mego boxed $150; 4 Kiss dolls boxed $400.

That wraps up this month. Have a great Summer!

GLEN SULLIVAN
MARTIN ROTHSTEIN
Wall To Wall Comics
24228 Crenshaw Blvd.
Torrence, CA 90505
(310) 326-2230

With summer now upon us, Marvel D.C. and the rest of the comic players have unleashed their latest flurry of new titles and even newer universes. All are battling for market share hoping that their characters and title crossovers will attract an already free spending and increasingly growing audience. For as slow as the country's economic recovery has been, it has had little effect on the new comic book marketplace. It has even had a lesser impact on those collector's of Silver and Golden age comics, as these books are now being consumed at such a brisk pace, that they are usually sold the very same day they arrive at the store.This impetuous behavior has driven prices even higher than had been anticipated, and with a dwindling supply of these high grade masterpieces available to the public, the prices should rise even higher with its apex no where in sight. Since Wall to Wall Comics Inc. has both a store and a mail order service, we have combined these sales.

Golden Age - The Golden age market still remains a favorite for investors and collectors alike, as books of all grades sell well (just try finding these gems in high grade.) Still remaining on top is Timely and D.C , with Marvel Mystery and Detective Comics leading the way. But wait!! A Golden Age company that has been collecting dust is now gaining renewed popularity, FAWCETT (Remember Fawcett?)

Whiz #25 leads the way along with Bulletman , Captain Marvel Adventures, and Captain Marvel jr. following close behind. These books can still be found in relatively high grade with out selling the farm Sales included; Whiz #16 in vf/nm for $650, and Captain Marvel jr. #55 in f/vf $20, and Captain Marvel jr. #60 in vf for $25. Timely books that sold were Marvel Mystery #13(first Vision) in vf/nm for $1300 and Sub-Mariner #32 in vg/f for $400. Ms. America #1 in vf sold for $800. D.C. gold that sold was Detective #30 in f/vf for $ 2000, and Batman #14 in vg/f for $850, as well as Batman #100 in f+ sold for $700.

'50s Horror - It's from the fifties, its pre code, and it's hot. What can we say? Atlas leads the way with their title *Menace*. Other titles that have become hot over night are Mystic and Marvel tales, as well as Adventures into Terror. Collectors of '50s Horror are popping up everywhere and they're willing to pay big big money for high grade copies (three to five times guide seems to be the norm. With a rapidly growing interest in blood, guts, and gore, these titles are the potential gems of the future. High grade E.C.'s continue to gain popularity (they are no longer a secret from mainstream collectors). I think we can look for these books to double and tipple in value in the near future. Our few sale of importance were an Eerie #1 in f for $200, and Blueboit Weird tales #115, #116, #117, #118, all in very fine that commanded $150 each. (So much for the guide aye)

Silver Age - To say the silver age market is hot seems to be an understatement, as it is the one market that seems to attract a plethora of new collectors and investors each month. These two groups may have different motives for entering the Silver Age market (even though at many times they seem to be overlapping)... but they both have one thing in common; their demand for the highest grade possible. This has driven prices far above the status quo.

Sales: Fantastic Four #48 NM $650, Silver Surfer #4 VF/NM $400, Spider-Man #5 VF/NM $1350, #14 VF/NM $1400, #8 VF $450, # 50 NM $400. Atom #1 NM $1200. Showcase #34 VF $1300. Also a run of Flash from 108 to 125 in high grade that sold for double the NM guide price. Other sales of lesser grade material nevertheless still sold quickly. They include; Spider-Man #2 vg $500, Incredible Hulk #6 vg $90. Daredevil #1 vg $250, Silver Surfer #1 vg $100.

Bronze age - These books have a growing audience.

Sales: House of Secrets #92 NM $650, #92 VF $500, Iron-fist #14 NM $150, Spider-Man #101NM $200, #129 VF $200, Hulk #181 NM $250, Giant size X-men #1 $200, X-men #94 NM/M for $300, and X-men #100 VF/NM $45.

Current - The new kids on the block, Valiant and Image, have taken a firm hold on the market place attracting scores of new readers with titles like Rai and the Future Force, Magnus Robot Fighter and Spawn. Continuity with its Deathwatch series and Malibu with its Ultraverse have now pushed their way into the new comic world forcing the late great Marvel to resort to special covers and marketing gimmicks to keep sales afloat. Lost within these market battles is DC, who's storylines are among the best, and Topps who has had some limited success. Dark Horse has been true to their name as they seem to clutter our shelves long after everything else has sold. (We sell more new Disney Comics then Dark Horse.)

Comics that continue their rise are Rai #3 and 4 selling for $100 each. Rai #5 is also a swift mover selling above guide. Magnus Robot Fighter still climbs in status as well as price as it is now hovering around the $150 mark. And lastly Eternal Warrior #1 through 8 and Shadowman #8 are easy sales at guide plus, and don't forget early X-O and Harbinger which never hang around long. As for Image, Spawn 1 through 4 are still in high demand, as well as Youngblood #1 and the entire Wildcats series which more then holds its own.

DC: Vengeance Of Bane is selling for $25, and the entire nightfall series flies off the shelves. The Superman series, which everyone says has been disappointing, has done fairly well at our store, as has Bloodlines, which has shown signs of potential as it has captivated a loyal audience.

Marvel: X-men, X-force, and everything else that begins with the X, are the only titles that sell above expectations. Wolverine and Spider-Man have also held their own. Obviously Marvel operates under the assuption "the more titles better". Only time will tell if their logic and game plan is sound. Until next time take care.

JOE FIELD
Flying Colors Comics & Other Cool Stuff
2980 Treat Blvd.
Concord, CA 94518
(510) 825-5410

Is the glut over? Hi, folks, welcome to another chapter in the the quest for truth in the comics' market, something you'll only find in Overstreet's Comic Book Marketplace. Thanks to my staff for helping to compile this info, which is based on real sales and not false profits (sic).

According to my sources, some say the glut is almost over with all the unpredictability of new books washed through the system, making new books easier to order. There are others, though, that feel the glut is a result of too many titles overall, and not just a few titles which have been way overordered.

I'd like to add to the discussion that we have several distinct markets at work here, even in these pages of CBM, making a level field for everyone impossible to attain. Within these market reports, we have full-line retail stores, mail order dealers, subscription services, convention dealers, and combinations thereof... all reporting their view of entirely different perspectives (and expectations) of the market. In short, folks, all this makes for a very fluid market. We encourage consumers to buy first for entertainment. Now on to the report...

Golden Age - Everybody loves a bargain, so the less expensive books from the 40s seem to be desirable. Acquisitions have been next to nothing, but sales and inquiries are solid for Fiction House good girl art, early romance and humor comics, and low grade anything with good art.

Sales: Misc. issues of Jumbo and Jungle in GD at guide, Master Comics #63 G $25, and Heroic #50 G @$15.

Silver Age - Continuing to be strong performers are the Dells, Archies, Westerns, and Classics Illustrated in lower grades at guide. Also strong in the request department are EC's (particularly Mad 1-20) and pre-

TROPIC COMICS EAST

TROPIC COMICS, South Florida's largest chain of Comic Book specialty stores, *JUST GOT EVEN BIGGER!* Welcome one and all to *TROPIC COMICS EAST,* showcasing our usual giant selection of *DC's, Marvels, Image, Dark Horse, Valiant, Ardvark/Vanaheim, Alternates, Silver & Golden Age Comics!*

Tropic RULES the Back Issue Market... our Mail Order Department ships Comics across the globe! Fax in your "want list" at (305) 587-0409. And don't forget Tropic's *Baseball* and other *Collectable Card* selection!

TROPIC COMICS EAST
5439 N. Federal Highway
Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. 33308
305-351-0001

TROPIC COMICS
313 S. State Rd. 7
Plantation, FL 33317
(305) 587-8878

TROPIC SOUTH
742 N.E. 167 th St.
N. Miami Beach, FL 33162
(305) 940-8700

TROPIC NORTH
933 15 th Place
Vero Beach, FL 32960
(407) 562-8501

TROPIC Comics

code horror for the 1950-1955 era. Post 1955 Silver Age requests and sales are strong for Amazing Spidey, Turok Son of Stone, Batman, Brave & Bold, and Fantastic Four. Other good performers are pre-hero Marvels and early Marvel reprints (Marvel Tales, Collector's Item Classics, Fantasy Masterpieces). Sales include Amazing Spidey #14 VG/F $300, Batman Annual #2 F @$75, Batman #96 G @$40, Fantastic Four #48 VG @$125, Journey Into Mystery #97 VG @$45, Four Color #656 (Turok) VG/F @$85.

The New Stuff - Predictability is returning to the new comics scene. We now know that not every book from Image and Valiant will be a hit. We also know that first issue Marvels and DCs will sell only about a third of what they did 18 months ago. We also know that readers of independent titles are likely to be comics consumers for a lot longer than super-hero buyers.

With all that in mind, the top sellers remain Spawn, X-Men, Spidey's Maximum Carnage cross-overs, Batman:Knightfall and the Superman titles. The DC Vertigo titles remain strong. Independents with agood showing are Elfquest, Bone, Cerebus and the Anne Rice adaptations

Next Time - the first reports on the effects of the new Dark Horse Comics Greatest World and Malibu's Ultraverse. (I'm thinking of calling that report "How Much Long Underwear Do We Need In The Middle Of Summer?") Til then, friends, remember that comics don't have to be "hot" to be cool... and keep those four colors flying!

JAMES AND GINA DILL
Heroes and Villains
1410 #3 Highland Ave
Hendersonville, NC 28739
(704) 687-7005

Welcome! It's time for another fantabulous episode of Overstreet Monthly - the only professional price guide. Here's what's happening this month...

Current - Marvel: They still dominate our new issue sales, with Maximum Carnage storylines selling out every week. Other hot Marvel titles are: *X-Men*, *X-Force*, *Uncanny X-Men*, *Wolverine*, all *2099* (except Ravage), and *Midnight Massacre* titles. Other titles to watch for: *Dead Pool*, *Sabertooth*, and *Thunderstrike*. Slowing Marvels: *Punisher* all titles, *Avengers*, *X-Factor*, *Excaliber*, *New Warriors*, and *Captain America*. All other Marvels are average sellers.

Valiant: Sales have picked up slightly on new Valiant's due to the serial number contest, but nothing big except for *Bloodshot* #6 and #7 (the first appearance of Ninjak), which sells as high as $45.

Valiant: Valiant back issue seem to have slowed slightly, but nothing dramatic.

Image: Image still sells as well as ever, with Spawn being in the lead.Back issues. *Spawn* #1-5 sells extremely well as a back issue at guide, except *Spawn* #3, which sells well at above guide. The only other Image titles that sell well as a back issue are *Wild C.A.T.S.* #2 and *Shadowhawk* #1 and 2. All other Image back titles are extremely slow sellers.

DC: Batman Knightfall - red hot! New titles sell out every week, with issue #497 selling as high as $15. New issue superman sales have picked up. Other than these, no other DC titles seem to work. Sales are just not there. The Death of Superman issues have really died. Newsstand editions sell for about $5, and bagged editions do not move at $15. The only title that sells well for DC is the Batman Knightfall, for the time being. Like all other DC titles, this will probably be a short-lived fad.

Marvel: All early Venom appearances are selling extremely well. Other hot titles are. *X-Men*, *Amazing Spider-Man*, (with McFarlane titles picking up steam), and *Wolverine*. *New Mutants* #98 is selling very well for above guide with anticipation of new Deadpool limited series. The most sought after issues are the Sabertooth appearances. With his new limited series due out soon, his prices are going through the roof. *Ironfist* #14 (first appearance of Sabertooth) is selling for as high as $150.

Trading Cards - Marvel Masterpiece are still the most sought-after and hottest cards around. Boxes are impossible to find at $100 or less

Doomsday cards are still hot, but slowing down some. These cards still sell okay at $3 a pack.

Marvel Series IV hit the stand this week, and these cards are red hot!

The 2099 foil stamped cards are selling for $6 each, and the Spider-Man vs. Venom 3-D hologram is selling as high as $50 - $60. Sealed boxes are selling as high as $30 - $35. We sold two cases in one day, and there's no end in sight!

Other hot cards are X-Men Series I & II (with series II being in the lead), Ken Kelly, Hildebrant Series II, Boris Series III, Olivia Series II, Star Trek: Deep Space Nine sets, and Star Wars Galaxy.

That about wraps it up for this time. We hope this helped you out some. Until next time, "Be excellent to each other!"

JERRY RINGI
GEORGE PESQUERA
Amazing Fantasy
P O Box 22483
14346 Warwick Blvd. Suite 355
Newport News, VA 23602
(804) 877-6030

Hi, we're back again this month to let you know what's happening on the Peninsula. We just returned from the 10th Diamond Conference held in Atlanta, GA. Diamond and DC get a "10" plus for the conference and for DC's presentation. DC pulled out all the stops this year as their presentation was held at Six Flags Over Georgia.

Not only were we treated to a great Batman Thrill Show but we were shown some scenes from the new Lois and Clark TV show. Don't miss this one it's funny and exciting and should be a hit. It will be seen on Sunday evening at 8 P.M...

Met some great artists and writers but the high point of the show was meeting the one and only Stan Lee and getting him to sign my *Amazing Fantasy* #15 which I have had since I was a kid. Another great event was meeting and talking to Marty Nodell and his family. Mart is the creator of the original Green Lantern. Listening to the old stories of the beginning of the Golden Age was a thrill beyond description. I was lucky enough to get an original sketch from him which I will display at out store. He is a class individual and I hope that DC gives Marty and the other greats from the 40s the credit they deserve.

DC: Superman sales are still up and numbers are holding steady. Customers are talking about who will be the real Superman and how it will happen. Requests for back issues such as the Time and Time Again storyline are picking up. Customers are also asking for John Byrne's The Man of Steel six part mini-series to see how it all began this time around.

Batman #497 has flown off the shelves (all 750 copies in two days). Interest in the back issues of the Knightfall series has increased as many new readers are searching for the back issues. Prices for the Azrael mini-series ranges from 50 to 60 dollars. Vengeance of Bane commands prices up to 30 to 40 dollars.

Marvel: Still the king, however, people are beginning to think that they may have seen their best days and are ready to be over taken. However, Marvel is not yet ready to roll over and play dead. The king has a hit series in the Maximum Carniage books. Although it may be somewhat long for a cross over, the excitement of the main characters seem to be equal to the task of keeping the fans coming back each issue. *X-Factor* #72 is a huge success due to the great hologram on the cover. This is possibly the best hologram to ever appear on a cover. For the price of the books the fan receives a hologram that if sold separately could go for 10 to 15 dollars.

Valiant: As in last months review, pre-Unity issues are selling well, while current books are moving slowly. The exception to this is the issue(s) which has a "first" appearance of some character. this seems to insure a sell out because it will most likely increase in price. An example is *Bloodshot* #6 and *Shadowman* #16. Interest in X-O "o" has been increasing and with the great cover that Valiant has produced, I predict this book will be very, very hot!!!!!

Image: Spawn is still the number one seller both in new and back issues. Wildstar and Shaman's Tears were also hits and sold out for us. both of these titles had good art and story and yes they were from Image. Not selling well was the line of 1963 books, Deathblow, Trencher, and Image-Plus. I feel strongly that unless Image adds some talented writers to their excellent artist line-up (and begin to ship on time) they could loose readership.

That's it for this month. Next month my partner George will be commenting on a situation that could cause this industry to self destruct. Don't miss it. Good reading!

• TRH Gallery •

presents

Frank Frazetta

Originals

Bought-Sold-Appraised

• Drawings
• Paintings
• Watercolors
• Comic Book Work
• Comic Strip Work

TRH Gallery

Tom Horvitz

21520 Burbank #315
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Phone: 818-716-8664
Fax: 818-347-2357

KERRY HICKS
MIKE MILES
Comics of Central Florida
2621 S. Orlando Dr., Ste 4
Sanford, FL 32773
(407) 323-6311

Silver Age Marvel: Still in demand with high grade leading the way. *Spider-Man*, *FF*, and *X-Men* most asked for. Lesser keys becoming more popular as prices rise. Some sales include: *ASM* #28 FN+ $45; *ASM* #33 NM $65; *ASM* #101 NM $125; *Werewolf By Night* #32 NM $50; *Dr. Strange* #1 NM $28; *X-Men* #4 NM/MT $300; and *Hulk* #3 VG $230.

Silver Age DC: Many issues still undervalued and overlooked. Still affordable key issues, if they can be found in high grade, could be a great investment. Recent sales include: *HOS* #61 FN- $130; *HOS* #92 VG $40; *All Star Western* #10 VF $50; *Showcase* #60 VF- $70; *Metal Men* #1 VF- $200

Post Silver Age: 70's books are being sold at a higher rate than ever. Books like *Spotlight* #5 and #12 and *Son of Satan* are becoming more sought after. Recent sales include: *Spotlight* #5 VF+ $125; *Spotlight* #12 FN $30; and *Ghost Rider* #2 FN $25

Current Marvel: New books and back issues are very slow. *X-Men* and *Spider-Man* still sell consistently and *Ren and Stimpy* does fine but very little else sells large quantities. Recent back issue sales include: *ASM* #300 NM $45; *Wolverine* #1 NM $20, *Namor* #26 NM $8; and *X-Men* #266 VF- $15.

Current DC: Superman and Batman both doing solidly with the current storylines. *Superman* #75 still sells well at $25. *Veng of Bane* sells consistently at $18. *Sword of Azrael* #1 does well at $15. Other titles, including *Vertigo*, slowing down.

Image: Spawn is still at the top of the list. New issues and back issues sell well. Most of the other titles have slowed as more titles come out.

Valiant: New issues sell well as do back issues, especially pre-Unity. Recent sales include: *Rai* #1 $30; *#2* $30; *#3* $70; *#4* $100. *#5* $25; *#0* $15, *Bloodshot #1* $8; *X-O #14* $4; *Eternal Warrior #5* $12; and *X-O #1* $30.

Premium Rings - Rings are starting to make a comeback. Sales include Brass Spider-Man (Fla Extravaganza) $150, Silver Spawn $200, and two Superman (70's movie related) $50 each.

MICHAEL TIERNEY
The Comic Book Store
9307 Treasure Hill
Little Rock, AR 72207
(501) 227-9777

Greeting from Central Arkansas! I'll cover all the territory briefly.

Golden Age - Non movers in Arkansas, with the exception of Superman, Batman, and their related titles. These move in almost any condition at guide value or higher. Marvel/Timely are non-existent. Some new interest seems to be generating on old Westerns that have been traditionally stagnant, now selling for below guide value.

Silver Age - Early Silver comics are slow, except for Marvel number ones and key issues. DC comics from the same period are very slow: we have Showcase Atoms and the first regular issue collecting dust at prices below guide. This holds true for almost all DC's other than Batman and Detective in the early 60's.

Bronze Age - Titles haven't been hurt as badly by the back issue slowdown resulting from this Summer's proliferation of titles. Son of Satan and others are benefiting from recent revitalization's.

Modern - It's much the same as the Bronze Age with back issue sales determined by new comic sales; exemplified by the death of Superman and the breaking of Batman's back. The Image and Valiant crazes are ebbing as new and back issue sales level off, and, in the case of new Image releases, dropping drastically. Wal-Mart has been dumping the first Youngbloods and Spawns en masse on the Arkansas market, while the Kansas Wal-Marts are doing the same with WildC.A.T.S. The recent flood of new titles and Universes have changed almost all buying patterns, with few surprises and some disappointments. Top sellers for Marvel and DC seem unaffected, while mid and low range titles are being suffocated. Marvel's Heavy Hitters line has been a complete sales bust here, except for The Trouble With Girls (and fishnet bodysuits). By contrast, many small independents are holding most their ground.

Valiant comics have managed to remain level because of interest from crossover collectors leaving the sports card market, resulting from card shops attempting to enter the comics market. For us, new sports card releases that were once impossible to sell now fly like Superheroes... off the shelves that is! Till next issue.

BRUCE EDWARDS
Quasar Comics & Collectibles
P O Box 2227
Louisville, KY 40201-2227
(502) 897-3266

It's had to believe another month has passed and it's time for another report. As the Summer convention season heats up I have noticed that collectors are becoming more active both in the buying and selling modes

Silver Age - Many collectors are actively trying to locate Superman and related issues, I'm currently trying to locate high grade copies of issues #100 - 160 for more than one collector. Gold Key books such as *Turok, Magnus, Solar* and *Mighty Samson* are sought after. Guide or slightly above guide prices are easy to get for these books.

Golden Age - DC Golden Age remains the most in demand here. A recent upsurge in demand for Superman titles has put Golden Age Batman/Detective issues into second place with Golden Age collectors on my mailing list. Westerns remain moderate buy steady sellers if priced at 75% of guide with John Wayne titles being the exceptions to this pricing structure and bringing guide or more. Archie and Ducks remain very slow for me.

Post Silver Age/Modern - The more obscure issues from the 1970's are doing well with the second Marvel Feature series, Red Sonja, Logan's Run, Tarzan (Marvel), Black Goliath, etc. selling well at 1.5 times guide for the first issue and selling fair at guide for later issues. Pre-Unity Valiants are still selling well but with some moderation in price for the very expensive issues (*Harbinger* #1 at $90; *Rai* #3 and 4 at $60 each) however, with a few exceptions, post-Unity issues are in over supply and can be found at much less than cover at conventions.

Final Comment - This Summer will be very interesting as publishers latch onto every concievable gimmick (Poggs for example) to maintain sales at present speculator/investor levels. I hope collectors remember to buy what you enjoy, as I feel certain that there will be many casualties among those buying new products for investment. See you in thirty days!

KATHLEEN MILLER
Comic World
1204 4th Ave
Huntington, WV 25701
(304) 522-3923

Hello... from the hometown of Bob Overstreet.

Recent Comics - Image has been the hottest company lately, although Marvel is still outselling them. All Carnage crossovers, X-Titles continue to sell extremely well. DC of course has been selling out since Knightfall started in Batman, and of course the Superman story. Vertigo titles have a most devoted following too. Valiant sell extremely well, but mostly to the older readers.

Silver Age - Silver Age books sell better for us in the good to fine condition if they are fairly low priced. High grade Silver Age are too expensive for most of our customers.

Golden Age - Lately we haven't purchased any, and don't have any in stock. We do have several collectors in the area though.

That's it for now, see you next month.

HUGH O'KENNON
2204 Haviland Dr.
Richmond, VA 23229
(804) 270-2465

Golden Age - Last month I reported that Capt. America was one of the most sought after titles. This demand has continued unabated it sometimes seems that every Golden Age collector is after this title.

Another trend that continues is the search for very high grade books. There are just so many of these very fine or better books available, and with so many collectors wanting them, the prices seem to just keep going "up, up and away". There is not enough of a supply to satisfy everyone.

Along with this trend is an ever

Beware of backing boards bearing these descriptions:

"Acid Free at Time of Manufacture"

"Lab Tested to be Acid Free"

"Archival Safe"

They could destroy your comic books

Most of these boards are spray coated with an alkaline substance that wears off almost as soon as you begin to use them. pH tests showed that within one day of purchase most of these products were highly acidic. For about the same price as the so called acid free boards, you can preserve your comic books with genuine acid free backing boards from Bill Cole Enterprises, Inc.

Thin-X-Tenders™

24 mil Comic Book Backing Boards

- **Genuine Acid Free**
  8.0-8.5 pH with a 3% calcium carbonate buffer throughout
- **Now available in 5 sizes**
  For Current Size, Standard Size, Silver/Golden Age Size and Super Golden Age Size Comic Books and Standard Size Magazines
- **White on Both Sides**

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDERS
MA residents add 5% sales tax.
24 hour Toll Free Order Line for Mastercard, Visa and Discover Orders Only
1-800-225-8249
This is a recorded tape and does not relay product information or messages.

Bill Cole Enterprises, Inc.
P.O. Box 50, Dept. CBM4, Randolph, MA 02368-0050
(617) 986-2553 FAX (617) 986-2856

ACID FREE
Thin-X-Tenders™
COMIC BOOK BACKING BOARDS

Are now available in
TWO NEW SIZES
to fit Super Golden Age Size comics and Standard Size Magazines
PLUS
You can now buy Thin-X-Tenders™ in convenient packs of 100 for the same price as bulk cases.

- Convenient packaging for easier handling, display and storage
- Color coded cover sheets with compatibility chart for easier size identification and quicker sales

Thin-X-Tenders™			PRICE PER CASE (10 packages per case)				
Cat #	Size in inches	For Use With	1 - 4 cs	5 - 9 cs	10 - 19 cs	20 - 39 cs	40 cs +
215	7 3/8 x 10 3/8	Silver/Golden Age Comics	44 50	41 50	38 50	35 50	31 50
225	6 3/4 x 10 3/8	Current Comics	38 50	35 50	32 50	29 50	25 50
235	7 x 10 3/8	Standard Comics	38 50	35 50	32 50	29 50	25 50
295	7 3/4 x 10 1/2	Super Golden Age Comics	45 00	42 00	39 00	36 00	32 00
305	8 1/2 x 11 1/4	Standard Magazines	49 00	46 00	43 00	40 00	36 00

You may mix and match sizes to obtain higher quantity pricing discount

SHIPPING AND HANDLING for each case of 10 packages add the following amount if your zip code begins with:

Cat #	0,1	2,4	3	5, 6	7	8	9	APO, FPO, AK & HI	UPS to Canada	All foreign countries
225/235	$11.50	$15.00	$18.25	$20.50	$23.75	$24.75	$26.75	$36.50	$45 00	Call us
215, 295, 305	$14.50	$17.75	$21.00	$23.25	$26.25	$27.50	$31.00	$38.00	$51 00	Call us

Save on shipping when you order 10 cases or more. Call for details!

Thin-X-Tenders™ is a trademark of Bill Cole Enterprises, Inc. The Preservation Professionals™ is a servicemark of Bill Cole Enterprises, Inc

increasing critical interpretation of grades. With many collectors a very fine book must be just about near mint to qualify as very fine. I suspect that the very high prices are driving this trend. For a long time, Spirit sections were very hard to move. I have had a number of these in my last two catalogs, and had multiple orders for all of them. With me at least, Spirit sections are as hot as any Golden Age books. Especially sought after are the earlier 16 page sections with Lady Luck and Mr. Mystic. I think that Bob Powell's Mr. Mystic is a very under rated feature.

Silver Age - Silver Age comics, especially high grade DCs are fast catching up to Golden Age comics as investment vehicles. Like may people, I do not particularly like the idea of buying comics for investment rather than the pleasure of collecting, but I can't deny that it is an economic fact of life that we have to accept. Showcase comics show no signs of letting up as a high demand book as well as *Brave and Bold*. *Mystery in Space* and *Strange Adventures* are continuing to show strength. As always, everyone seems to want a high grade copy of *Showcase* #4.

Acquisitions - Since my last report I have obtained a small collection of high grade Golden Age No. 1 comics. Included are *Sensation* #1, *Planet* #1, *Spy Smasher* #1, *Human Torch* #1, *Fantastic* (Fox) #1, *Capt. Marvel Jr.* #1, *Capt. Battle Jr.* #1, *Spirit* #1, *U.S.A. A.* #1, *Blue Ribbon* #1, *Thrilling* #1, *Shield-Wizard* #1, *Military* #1, *Mad* #1, *Daredevil* #1 and others.

JIM MAC NAUGHT
Jesse's Comics
631 Forest Ave
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 774-2215

Overview - This month sales have been very good on new releases and Marvel back issues as we gear up for the biggest comic convention to ever hit Maine. Eliot Brown from the Punisher Armory, Jon Bogdanove from Superman Man of Steel, Peter Laird from the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Jim La Pointe from Blood Quest, and many other guests are going to appear July 18th at Portland's Ramada Inn which of course has been causing quite a demand for these titles. PolyVentura entertainment Group LTD. will be attending to present their new comic line up. Image and Marvel have been dominating the scene with the occasional speculators here and there. There has been no request for any Golden Age titles and very little for Silver.

Recent - Image: Spawn is our best moving title with more and more new customers just discovering it as each new issue comes in. With the release of *Maxx #2* interest appears to keep growing in this title as well. Tribe and Trencher were two new titles that were picked up because of the Image name and dropped back on the shelf after a very short inspection of their contents. All other Image books are selling at cover price well, but the back issues of these move slowly unless discounted from book value to a reasonable price.

Valiant: More sales are slowing down as more and more collectors are coming in with back issues for sale that they bought strictly as an investment and now feel won't pan out. Collectors here are eagerly awaiting the arrival of Defiance with large pre-orders of Plasm with no knowledge of the book except Jim Shooter's name. Do I see history about to repeat itself?

DC: *Batman* #497 sold off the shelf as soon as it came in, along with all of the Superman titles. Action back issues have been selling steady at book price and a demand has been created for early issues of Jimmy Olsen and Lois Lane. We haven't moved a Flash, Lobo, or Robin in over six months, with the exception of the 25 cent box. Batman and Superman are the only titles that anyone is even paying any attention to

Marvel: Enough with the UK titles already! All Spider-Man titles with the exception of Marvel Tales is doing well, X-Men is still selling pretty hot along with 2099 titles. There has been no Golden Age sales or Silver Age sales in any category, Bronze Age Spider-Man sales have been increasing. I've sold a *Ghost Rider* #1 for $100, #5 for $30, #11 for $12, a *Punisher* #1 for $30, #5 for $7 also quite a few back issues of other Punisher titles, Hulk, and Ghost Rider have been moving at book price.

Malibu: I believe the mass media marketing that Malibu is using to promote their sales won't help them directly all that much, but will generate more new customers in local comic shops. One of my favorite comic writers, Roland Mann, is now on staff at Malibu so here's hoping that we will see a return of the Cat & Mouse series soon.

Closing - Most of our sales are comics released in the last four years. Many of these titles are selling for more than book price since the demand is so high, while the majority of older books must be drastically reduced to sell. There has been a lot of new interest in the comic industry thanks in part to the Death of Superman and the press on Batman's Knightfall series. The national attention has brought a new audience in and now its up to us to keep them coming back. I feel very positive about the industry which is drastically changing to try and meet the demands of keeping the interest of all of the new collectors as well as keeping the true comic fans

MICK RABIN
P O Box 15112
San Diego, CA 92175-0112
(619) 558-8917

Thumbs up thoughts - Thumbs up to Overstreet CBM for listing buy-back prices in their BICEL 40 Survey. Thumbs up to Overstreet CBM for listing titles that other publications omit entirely, like *GI Combat*, *Our Army at War*, *My Greatest Adventure*, *House of Secrets*, etc. Thumbs up to Overstreet CBM for not prematurely listing comics before they have any sort of a track record of sales. Some publications magically hike prices by as much as 1000% before any sales occurr. How could they be worth 10 times cover price if it hasn't even arrived on the stands yet? Sheesh. And finally, thumbs up to Overstreet CBM for basing its prices on substantiated sales and purchases. It's nice to know that the Overstreet Price Guide reflects the values of comics in a dependale and *legitimate* manner.

DC War Tips - It was good that the early Dinosaur issues of *Star Spangled War Stories* were given a boost. Those late 10¢ and early 12¢ Dinosaurs are tough as nails to find. The later ones aren't much easier and people (myself included) have been paying about 1.25 X those prices. One of the most overlooked comics in the entire Silver Age is *Star Spangled War Stories* #138. I feel it has, unquestionably, the finest Enemy Ace cover ever rendered. The art inside is sublime and its the reappearance of Enemy Ace after a 2 1/2 year hiatus.

I have a message for those of you buying 10 copies of everything that comes off the stands every week: Save your money just one week and set that money aside. Now try to find just 1 copy of *Star Spangled War Stories* #138 (or 139-151) in NM. Offer to pay for it with the $100-150 you saved from said week. I guarantee that you will not find a NM copy of this book for this price. This book is among the most sought after war books because it is the beginning of a run which had (and has) an appeal to war collectors and mainstream superhero collectors alike. Everyone should know that DC war collectors everywhere are having trouble locating much of the DC "Big-5" war titles.

One Last Tidbit - Here's a rundown on the first and most famous DC war annual; *Sgt. Rock's Prize Battle Tales* (Winter 1964) Kubert cover 1) Kubert's classic "The DI and the Sandfleas" reprinted from *GIC* #56. 2) Heath's "Silent Fish". 3) Andru's & Esposito's "Out in Front". 4) Andru's & Esposito's "Island of Armored Giants" 5) Kubert's classic "What's the Price of a B-17" reprinted from *OAW* #79. 6) Novick's "Gun Jockey". 7) Kubert's "Calling Easy Co.". 8) Special Pinup on inside front cover by Kubert and Inside Back cover with everybody from Easy Co.) by Kubert. Also included is a two page spread with the "DC Gallery of Battle Stars" by Kubert.

All of you out there who own this book, you don't want it…trust me. If you decide to sell it, let me know. Out of the kindness of my heart, I'll accept any and all Sgt. Rock's Prize Battle Tales without a loving home. I'll even pay the stiff price of $75. for this. I know…I should have my head examined for paying such an exorbitant price, but I know that there must be a ton of people out there who just can't wait to get rid of this most despicable book. Hey, I'll even trade you a Harbinger #1 for it. Now there's a deal.

Recent Prices Paid - *Star Spangled War Stories* #144 VF/NM, $28; #151 NM $30; *Our Army at War* #61 VG $20; *Billy's Big Game* (Wisco Clarer) FN/VF $60; *Star Spangled War Stories* #55 VF+ $65. *Adventure Comics* #127 VF $186; *Atom* #7 VF/NM $130; *Captain America* #59 FN/VF 2X Guide; *Junior Justice Society of America Premium Badge* (1942) $550. Spiderman Vitamin Ring $310.

The IRS Collection

OWN A UNIQUE PIECE OF COMIC COLLECTING HISTORY!!!

The "IRS" Collection is one of the largest personal collections ever to be sold. A former employee of the Colorado Department of Revenue (CDR) allegedly infiltrated the Colorado Income tax refund computer system and wrote refunds to addresses he had control over. The employee used these funds to further his comic collecting habit. The goal was simple: acquire every single comic book ever published. Over 20 years of collecting and hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent building this collection. Thus, the scope of this collection is massive! Approximately 20% of all Golden Age, 75% of all Silver Age and 95% of all modern age comics are represented in the collection as well as numerous prints, portfolios, graphic novels, books, original art, Sunday pages, pulps, etc. There are an estimated 60,000+ different comics in the collection. The comics were bought from many sources but, once purchased, all were stored in Colorado's dry and moderate climate. Once in Colorado, the comic's aging process was nigh stopped so that the page quality of many books is exceptional compared to comics stored in other climates. Many of the comics in this collection may well be the best preserved copies in existence. The most valuable and rare specimens were allegedly stored in seven refrigerators dedicated to the preservation of these important treasures. Notable books in the collection include: Detective Comics #38 (1st appearance of Robin), New Comics #2 (rarest D.C. comic), Showcase #4 (1st Silver Age Flash), X-Men #1, Superman #4, near complete runs of: all E.C. titles, Showcase, Detective above 100, Batman above 100, etc., etc., etc.!!! This collection was seized by the CDR in 1992 as restitution for the embezzlement and then inventoried the collection and auctioned it off by sealed bid. RTS Unlimited is pleased to have been declared the winner. In the coming months we will be selling this historic collection to serious collectors, investors, and dealers. Each comic will be issued with a counterfeit proof certificate of authenticity to validate it's pedigree and unique origin from this important part of comicdom history. Act now by sending your want list or sending for the CDR's complete 100+ page illustrated inventory listing of this massive and important collection. This is probably comicdom's largest "catalog" ever to be offered. Act fast! Each day, we are selling comics that may never be offered for sale again! To order: send only $19.95 per listing plus $2.90 for S/H:

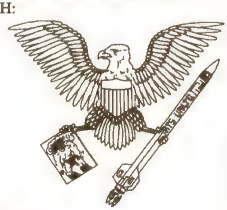
Send To:

RTS Unlimited

14225 Foothill Rd., Suite 215
Golden, CO 80401-2032
(mailing address only)
(no comics stored at this location)
24 Hr. phone: (303)-279-0946
24 Hr. Fax: (303)-279-0953

VISA

MasterCard



Credit Card orders: include card #, Signature & Exp. Date

Come see us and this incredible collection at the 1993 San Diego ComiCon

What's Hot and What's Not

Recent Sales - *JLA* #29 NM- $65; *Atom* #29 VF+ $50; *Iron Man & Submariner* #1 VF $120; *Strange Adventures* #118 VF+ $35; *Brave and the Bold* #55 NM $32; *Submariner* #34 NM $25; and *Nick Fury* #4 VF $16.

JOHN CHRUSCINSKI
MICHAEL GOLDSTEIN
ROBERT PRINCE
Tropic Comics
313 S State Rd 7
Plantation, FL 33317
(305) 587-8878

Greetings from broiling South Florida! Well the kids get out of school tomorrow and we expect a terrific Summer! We've had a crazy month here at Tropic getting our new store ready for the opening, but we think all the late nights we worked will be worth it! On to the report.

Acquisitions - We have bought so many collections this past month that it would be tough to itemize them for you. Some of it included 10,000 misc. books from the late sixties and early seventies in high grade. A couple hundred 50's horror & oddball titles. *Tales to Astonish* #27, *DD* #1, and lots of Valiants.

Golden Age - Sales: This month some of the Golden Age stuff we've sold included *Science Comics* #1 VF- $800; *Action* #13 VF restored $1800; *Earthman on Venus* FN $300; *Flash* #47 VG $100; *Sensation* #22 VG $100; *Worlds Finest* #2 VG+ $550, #3 GD/VG $225, #4-7 VG- $800; *Detective* #82 VG $140.

Silver Age - A few sales include: *Daredevil* #1 VF $750; *Journey into Mystery* #83 GD- $150 cash plus trade; *Doctor Strange* #169 VF $75, *Sgt. Fury* #1 VG $50; a run of 30 misc. issues of *Challengers of the Unknown* $450; *Amazing Spider-Man* #17 FN+ $175, #4 GD $100; *FF* #112 VF+ $30; *FF* #50 FN+ $60.

As for new stuff - *Batmans* are hot! We've sold several *Sword of Azreals'* at $15 for #1 & 2 and $20 for #3 & 4. *Vengeance of Bane* $30; The Knightfall issues start at $15 for *Batman* #491 and scale down from there, #497's are selling briskly at $6. Most other books are selling at around guide prices.

Some sales: *Rai* #3 $75; *Rai* #4 $90; *Turok Gold* $80, *Star Wars Dark Empire* gold set $150; *Gold Max* 1/2 $100; *Batman* #292 platinum $75; *Sandman* #50 signed platinum $125; *Hero Illustrated* platinum $100; *Valeria the She Bat* signed $100; *X-Men* Silver promo ring #250.

That's about it for this month. Bill's got that hungry look in his eye so we've got to get out of here. See you next month!

JOHN TINKESS
Another Dimension Comics
324 10th St. NW
Calgary, Alberta, T2N 1V8, Canada
(403) 283-7078

Commentary - The biggest problem facing the comics industry right now is the effect speculators are having on the market. Marvel, Image and Valiant seem to be falling all over each other to see who can put out the hottest books the fastest. This glut has, in turn, created problems for collector's budgets and the back issue market. Collectors find themselves with fewer and fewer dollars to spend on back issue and retailers are less inclined to purchase back issues when demand is falling.

I think sooner or later speculators will realize that the comics they are buying by the dozens have little resale value. Here we actively discourage speculation on new issues. We often have to put limits of one or two copies on "hot" new issues to insure that our regulars will have a fair chance to buy it. Speculators come and go but readers will come back month after month for the next issue.

So, what's my point? Buy what you enjoy reading. If you really like a book and want to support it by buying an extra copy, then do so. If it's value rises and you can sell it for a profit - great! And, if it doesn't, then at least it will always be worth something to you for the entertainment it provided. Now, on to business..

Silver Age - There has been a noticeable lack of high quality collections available recently. Because of this we really haven't had many high grade key issues available. The majority of sales have been in GD to VG issues in the $5 to $15 range. DC's are much harder to find than Marvels in any grade in this area, so even lower grade DC's move quickly. Recent sales include *80 Page Giant* #1 GD/VG, $35.

Image/Valiant - These two companies continue to be the most demanded in our stores. However, the demand has become more concentrated on key early issues, many fans are beginning to realize that most of the later issues had very large print runs and are not hard to find. Interest remains strong for the limited premium issues these two publishers are fond of producing. Recent sales: *Darker Image* #1 (platinum) $32; *Magnus* #0 (w/o card) $40; *Maxx* #1 (glow cover) $20; *Unity* #1 (gold) $80; *X-O Manowar* #14 $8, #15 $6.

Recent Marvel - Many of the hot issues of the past are suddenly slow to moderate sellers. *The Punisher* titles have been hit the hardest while *Wolverine* and *Spider-Man* are still moderate sellers at guide. *Amazing Spider-man* and *Uncanny X-Men* are the exceptions as sales remain strong on both titles. Most other titles are just lost in the shuffle as people try to keep up with the enormous amount of new issues.

Recent DC - When was the last time *Superman* and *Batman* were hot at the same time? I thought *Superman* would be yesterday's news by now, but the entire storyline from Doomsday to Funeral to Reign continue to sell well. *Superman* #75 (collector's edition) still sells consistently for $27. Knightfall started slowly but has steadily been gaining momentum. The first few parts sell well at $4 - $5 each and *Sword of Azrael* #1-4 at $10 each move quickly. The biggest on of the batch though is *Vengeance of Bane Special* (first appearance of Bane) which flies off the wall at $20. That's it for now. See you in 30.

CRAIG BARNETT
Comic Book Shop
East 1 Boone
Spokane, WA 99209
(509) 326-7018

Hello again. After a hiatus of several incredibly busy months it's nice to be back in these pages. We're starting our fifth year and the business has never been so interesting and uh even fun!

Silver Age - Books have not been surfacing as readily as they have in the past. Usually spring cleaning brings in some really nice books, but this year there is very little. With the increased publicity that comics have generated of late, people may be hanging on to 'that bunch of old funny books' that they found in the attic because of the possibility of future value. The few collections that I have encountered have been of lower condition with the exception of a near complete run of Walt Disney comics and stories, *Donald Duck* and *Uncle Scrooge* and most of the related four colors. (Whoa, wait a minute, put that phone down...these are going in my collection). Sales on Silver Age books have been slow with most books priced at Overstreet. With this being the beginning of my convention season, I will be able to report more on the buying trends in future reports.

The Bronze Age - (1970-1980) is my pick for the summer. The prices are right and the books have aged relatively well. With 25 to 30 years of age being the mature end of our hobby, these people are coming into the beginnings of their disposable income and with that, comes a desire to reclaim the good memories of childhood and the comic that went with it. I will be testing out this theory at the next couple of conventions that I attend with about 2,000 VF/NM books that I have been accumulating over the past 3 or 4 years, just for this experiment. I will report the confirmation of my theory or my crash and burn in future reports (if you hear stories of some nutty guy trying to trade *Shadow* #1's for gas money to Spokane, then you know I was wrong...)

The New Books - The new market is revolving around Image. New issues just keep flying off the stands although the massive speculation that existed in the beginning is tapering off to buying just one copy, or two just in case. Back issue Sales continue to be incredibly strong. We try to keep a minimum of 10 to 20 copies of all Image books in stock and it seems like a race for our customers to buy them out before we notice the stock is low. *Spawn* is the fastest mover with 1 and 4 priced at $8.75 and 2, 3, and 5 prices at $7.50. *Shadowhawk* #2 flew out of the store as well as *Shamans Tears* and *Tribe*. Fan favorites are the reason that Image is such a great mover, but when they venture out of that area, acceptance is limited. *1963*, *Trencher*, *Savage Dragon vs. Megaton Man*, and *Splitting Image* are dogs sales wise, even when the book is solid like *1963*. I really think that the new comic market owes an incredible debt to the Image company. I don't think sales would be up this year without them.

WHY USE ANYTHING ELSE?

Listen to the experts.

TO PROTECT AND DISPLAY
SHOWCASE SEALER™
THE COLLECTOR FRAME

"I've found SHOWCASE SEALER to be an excellent, low cost, archival product that is ideal for both storage and display."

GARY M. CARTER

"I am totally delighted with SHOWCASE SEALER. Not only does it keep comic magazines in perfect condition, but allows them to be seen to their very best advantage in both a dramatic and highly-pleasing manner."

STAN LEE

"The SHOWCASE SEALER is one of those stunningly simple revolutionary ideas. Everyone who sees it says, 'but of course.' That's how you know it's great."

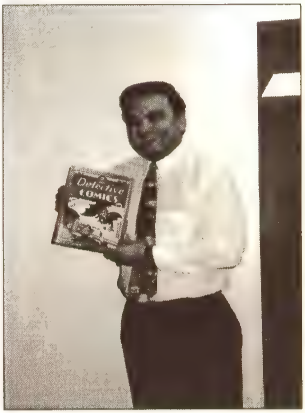
JIM SHOOTER
DEFIANT

"An imaginative and stylish way to display and preserve your favourite comic books. Classy."

DAVE SIM

"The first time I saw my comics on the stand was a thrill; the only thing that has come close since was seeing one in a SHOWCASE SEALER. I've got a wall full of them."

JOE QUESADA



Edgar Church relied on the forces of nature--the dry, cool, "mile-high" climate of Denver, Colorado--to keep his collection in pristine, mint condition.

I rely on SHOWCASE SEALERS."

STEVE GEPPI, President
Diamond Comic Distributors

Collectors: Ask your retailer to order for you or call
S&A Hobby Distributors, Inc. 1-800-766-1709

P.O. Box 663, Englishtown, NJ 07726 (NJ 908-919-0909)

RETAILERS: Available from Capital City, Comics Hawaii, Comics Unlimited, Diamond Star System, Friendly Franks, Hamps Supply, Heroes World, S&A Hobby.

Valiant is all the rave over the computer networks. The prices keep going up, advertisers keep touting the investment value and on, and on, and on...Then why aren't the books selling here? Tracking the past 5 months of subscriber orders in store, every single title has decreased by a minimum of 20%. We have little interest in most of the back issues and have started decreasing the prices below Overstreet, just to get them moving. Is this happening anywhere else?

Marvel new and back issue sales of the *X-Men* are exploding due to the new cartoon Maximum Carnage. was a disappointment sales wise. Marvel is claiming a big success, but the books were all ordered before initial poor sales could affect orders for the last 3 or 4 parts. *Spider-Man* never does bad, but the storyline just did not increase sales dramatically. The UK books are dying. We were ordering 150 to 200 of each new title in the beginning and now are ordering 40 to 50 and still have some left over. The heavy hitters from Marvel's epic are following suit. Marvel could still come out ahead this year if they jettison the poor sellers and concentrate on their potential strengths: Great story telling and the ability to attract good artists and cultivate them into great artists.

DC: *Superman* is still selling great, *Batman* is doing phenomenal, *Sandman* is consistently their best seller and *The Bloodline Annual* crossover is doing pretty well, but almost everything else is so-so, or just down right bad. Jim Shooter pegged it when he said they need a vision. When he and Valiant parted, I was kinda hoping that he would be asked to take over DC. It could have been great. DC does need some kind of focus. It really seems to be all over the road quality wise and I have gotten to the point of not trusting their new books. As a retailer that trust is extremely important when I order. If company X does not put out a consistent quality line, I will not take the chance of ordering a few extra because I can't push what I don't see as a good book.

The hype machine has been gearing up for the release of the Defiant books. I have been reading interview, preview, and promotional material, but I have not heard any buzz among collectors. Here we do not have the throngs of people signing up for Defiant books that we had with Image. Malibu's *Ultraverse* line is way ahead of *Plasm* in preorders from our instore subscribers which is usually an accurate view of how well a book is going to sell. Defiant is at the same numbers as most lower DC titles. Even the hardcore Valiant readers have not signed up for *Plasm* yet.

Non Sport Card Sales - They are at an incredible level. They just keep selling and selling. Marvel I-IV, X-Men I and II and Masterpiece are in constant demand packs and singles. DC cards are dead. Pre-chase card comic Image superhero cards are luke warm. Star Wars cards did not sell as well as I thought they would, but still do pretty well. Art cards seem to have a limited sell life. They are hot for a couple of months and then cool considerably. Overall this looks to be a great Summer. There is so much potential for growth in the next few months it is incredible. With all the people who are moving over to our hobby from sport card collecting, it should be fun. It will be quite a challenge to try and hook them for the long haul, and see if we can keep them collecting comics when the next big thing hits.

BRIAN & CAROL MORRIS
CB Comics Plus
P O Box 3792
Champaign, IL 61826-3792
(217) 398-0155

To quote Alice Cooper, School's out all Summer! When our customers aren't taking their vacations with their families (or convention-hopping, as we'd like to be), they're trying to earn some extra money to feed the comic book monkey on their backs. But the desire for new reading material is the fuel that pushes people to find gainful employment. Who says comics aren't a good influence, eh?

At this moment, Batman is paralyzed, Spider-Man and Venom are uneasy allies, and you can't tell the Supermen without a scorecard. There's a slight lull between Major Comic Events (except for what's going on with "Knightfall" 0, so everyone is catching up on back issues that finances have forced the average reader to put aside for the moment.

DC: The current hot event in comics is the Breaking of the Batman. After a worthwhile series of lead-in issues, *Batman* #497 flew off the racks, even in a second printing. Despite a recently released trade paperback, *Sword of Azrael* #1-4 is still eagerly sought out by collectors, as is *Vengeance of Bane.* A few discerning souls are seeking out *Legends of the Dark Knight* numbers 16 though 20 for the first appearance of Venom. Not Eddie Brock, but the chemical that almost ruined The Batman, the second time for sure (for now).

The four Superman titles sell well as people try to outguess Team Carlin as to which one(s) of the four Supermen might be the real one. While some people expressed dismay to us that DC might milk the "Reign of the Supermen" storyline out for the better part of a year, many of those same readers are surprised to hear that the real Man or Tomorrow will return in August, just in time for the new Batman. But keeping the reader guessing, as DC has done since last Summer, keeps the interest high in the Super-books.

The current incarnation of *The Spectre* is slowly building in interest as people realize that the John Ostrander/Tom Mandrake version of the Ghostly Guardian combines all the best elements from the Forties, Sixties and Seventies incarnations without ignoring what occurred in the Eighties.

Neil Gaiman's *Sandman* continues to draw readers who are bored with or refuse to read the mainstream titles. Our female customers appreciate *Sandman,* as well as the older *Supergirl* and *Wonder Woman.* This is probably due to the lower violence level than most of today's testosterone-laden titles that glut the newsstand, or so we think. Older adult readers also look for Silver Age DCs, especially the Kaniger/Kubert war titles. Would we be wrong in detecting a substantial swing towards escapism over graphic "realism"? Let's see how long this trend continues.

Marvel: Would anyone be surprised to find out that the Mutant and Spidey-related titles are still doing well for us, saleswise? Even the *Web of Spider-Man* back issue sales have picked up from last time around, due in no small part to the "Maximum Carnage" storyline. "The Search for Magneto" promises to fan the flames of reader interest. *X-Factor* #92, with its beautiful Havok hologram, sells itself without any help from us. In fact, sales have not dropped since Peter David left the title. It seems that Joe Quesada is picking up more enthusiasts with every issue. *X-Force* is beginning to pick up steam again as fans anticipate the eventual reunion (can you say "crossover"?) with Cable, whose own title gains new readers every time around. And these readers actively seek out the two-issue mini-series from several months ago.

The wakening sleeper title this time around is *What If?* Marvel's most popular characters appear here frequently in imaginative tales that, fortunately, have no repercussions on the mainstream. Marvel Universe. The books are easily affordable by most readers of even moderate income levels. Sure, it's fun for a retailer to sell an expensive comic book to someone, but most of our customer base doesn't speculate and prefer to get the true value from comic books by reading them.

All of the *2099* books are selling strong for us, especially the *Spider-Man* book. The anticipation grows for the new *X-Men* title. Bringing up this field is *Ravage.* While fans of Stan Lee's writing will be disappointed that he's leaving the title, the changes being wrought to the title character will keep the readers too interested to give up on the book now.

Image: *Shaman's Tears* by Mike Grell is one of the most well-received Image books to date. Grell is in top form, both in writing and artistry, in this book. He's inspired and the readers can tell it in every panel of every page. *Spawn* sells better with every issue. So much for any idea that people might miss Todd McFarlane's writing (although his artistic skills would be quite another matter). After a lull of a few months, Rob Liefeld's newest creations are pouring onto the newsstands (*Bloodstrike, Brigade, Youngblood Strikeforce,* etc.) to a warm reception, although this hasn't materialized in increased demand for his back issues. *Shadowhawk* and *Savage Dragon* continue to draw back issue requests as new work appears on the stands in a more timely manner than before. It appears as if Image may finally be licking its scheduling problems, which will translate in increased sales for them...and us.

Valiant: As we (and a few other consultants) related last issue, the entire run of Valiants are being unloaded by speculators. While our customer demand for Valiants has not decreased noticeably, more and more speculators contact us every week, trying to sell entire runs of any given title. We steadfastly refuse to buy at the prices that the

FFAST

FAST, FUN AND SIMPLE TOO!

The Best Way To Buy New Comics!

Here are *TEN GOOD REASONS* why *THOUSANDS* of fans shop for their comics at home and consider NEC'S *FFAST* service to be the best mail sub service:

1. BUY WHAT YOU WANT!
We issue a new order form for each month for you to pick out your comics—single or multiple copies!

2. NO MONEY TIED UP...
in year-long subs to titles you may no longer want! You pay each month for that month's issues!

3. HUGE SELECTION!
Get all the new issues: Marvel, DC, Image, Valiant, Dark Horse and indies, including the hot comics that are often *SOLD OUT* at local shops!

4. DISCOUNTS!
FFAST has discount plans ranging from 10% to 25% up to 40% off. Plus *SPECIAL OFFERS* that only we offer!

5. SUPPLIES!
We carry a complete line of both comic and card collecting supplies, singles and money-saving quantity packs!

6. EASY DEADLINES!
We never shut you out with deadlines way in advance like others do. You can order comics the same month they come out—even *after* they come out! *No one else allows that!*

7. GREAT SERVICE!
Orders are quickly shipped to you monthly, weekly or biweekly.

8. FREE!
We include a *FREE* acid-free board and *FREE* plastic bag for every comic ordered.

9. NO DAMAGED COPIES!
We don't fold comics or stick labels on them! Comics are shipped flat in heavy duty boxes!

10. WORLDWIDE SHIPPING!
We serve customers in the armed services and all foreign locations!

FREE! FREE! FREE!
If the above sounds good, then send us your name and address and we'll send you our latest newsletters with complete info and order forms so you can start!

NEW ENGLAND COMICS

PO BOX 310-B4
QUINCY, MA 02269
Or call 617-774-1745 and ask for the *"FFAST-PACK!"*

IMMEDIATE CASH FOR ORIGINAL JACK KIRBY AND STEVE DITKO ART

I am a private collector willing to pay top dollar for pre-Marvel Super Hero and early Marvel Super Hero original artwork by Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko.

Please send all information to:
Lois Hobbes 8721 Santa Monica Blvd. #526 West Hollywood, California 90069

speculators request, to be fair to our customers. While we don't see the Valiant line plummeting in resale value, due to its high quality of story and art, we are noticing prices stabilizing for the most part. We anticipate a steady rise in values. Especially in the pre-Unity titles, once the speculators dump their books in the inevitable panic when they can no longer get 100% plus of Guide for their books, and the local market has had time to settle back down.

The only exceptions to the above paragraph may be *Turok, Dinosaur Hunter* (especially with Jurassic Park's recent release - who couldn't love dinosaurs, dinosaurs and more dinosaurs?) and *Bloodshot*. But the early issues of *Harbinger* and key *Magnus* and *Solars* have been price out of the range of our people, sad to say.

In Closing - We'd like to pass on a tactic we've used recently to get people to try new comic titles. Instead of bagging every "hot" book that comes out and selling it for the proverbial King's Ransom, we put one that may not be in Mint condition into our boxes of inexpensive books for younger readers. Whomever thumbs through the rows of four-color wonderment are astonished to find a book that all their friends say is the "Next Big Thing", like gold amongst the dross. By making the book affordable, the buyer will take that book home, believing we've lost our minds for sacrificing such a treasure, and eager to return and check out the box another time, in case we lose our marbles again. Moreover, since the expense (such as it was) of the comic was low, the person will tend to read the book without fear of actually lowering the value.

If they like what they read, they tend to buy every issue and not just the first one. Comic readers, for us, tend to be far more loyal to us than the common speculator, and that's what we're trying to encourage week after week after week.

So as the worlds of Greatest Comics and Plasm wait to unleash themselves upon the buying public, we wish you cool breezes and steady sales. Take care and be good!

JOHN DOAN
Cosmic Comic Inc.
200 N. 66th, Suite 208A
Lincoln, NE 68505
(402) 467-2727

A cheerful hello from the folks here in the middle of the country. Here we go full swing into another summer and boy, oh boy, could this be a wild and crazy ride. This summer could prove to be fantastic for some and disastrous for others. All because of one thing, an upcoming glut. With such an abundance of product and a customer with only so much spending dollars something will have to give. My money is on those books which have an enhanced story and not an enhance cover.

Golden Age - There is a definite lack of these books in this area as has been the case for much of the year. The only thing which pops up now and then is the occasional western or funny animal comic, other than that, nothing. There is a small demand for Golden Age comics but there are none to sell.

Silver Age - Hard to come by in high grade as usual. Two years ago we had some beautiful Marvel's and DC's but those are long gone. People do want the higher grades but I am beginning to see a trend in picking up the lower grades to complete a run on a title. Recent sales - Justice League of America 9 VF - at $190.

Current Age - DC: Slow, except for a renewed interest in Batman and Superman. Also, the Vertigo titles like Sandman, Hellblazer, and Swamp Thing are hard to keep in stock. DC is becoming a strong seller again. The old stand-by that was once important is important once again. A good story with good art sells comics. This is beginning to win over the customer who once bought only comics which were going to be worth something. Sales in DC titles are beginning to climb thanks to the current storylines in Batman, Superman, and ever so important, the Vertigo line. Keep it up DC!

Marvel: Marvel: The X-Men Animated TV show has stirred up a large demand for X-Men back issues, especially the new series. Who would of thought that the early issues would be so difficult to get a hold of two years ago? Other that the X-titles, Marvel back issues are beginning to taper off. once "hot" titles are now "cold" (Punisher, Ghost Rider). I attribute this to a lack of quality in the current issues and saturation of the characters.

Marvel Problem: Too many titles + lack of quality = a drop in sales And drop they do It is weird to see such core titles slip into a gutter. You would think that with so much talent out there that a certain percentage would work for Marvel. But they do not. With the exception of the X-titles, Spider-Man, and Ren & Stimpy, the sales of Marvel Comics are falling. big bombs for Marvel are the Marvel-UK titles and the Heavy Hitters.

Image - What can I say but Wow! After a year the team at Image have proven themselves and continue to grow. Spawn flies out of here the fastest with Cyberforce and WILDC.A.T.S. close behind. I do foresee a slowdown with all the upcoming titles but not much. It is too bad that the 1963 titles are for the most part ignored. this is great stuff!

Valiant - New issues have dropped in sales as of late. Largely I feel due to the fact that all of the early issues are so darn expensive. The average comic customer does not have the money to pick up a small run of these titles especially the kids, so what do they do but ignore it. I myself have a problem with the prices on these issues, which I could go on for hours talking about it but I won't. I will sum up my feelings though. Artificially inflated prices brought on about by speculators and dealers hording these books. Expect a major correction soon.

In closing, thank you for reading this report and I hope you actually read those comics that you buy!

DONALD W. RIORDAN
Future Dreams
1800 East Burnside
Portland, OR 97214-1599
(503) 231-8311

Overview - Back issue sales continue to be sluggish overall. Customers are deciding which new issues to cut from their buying lists The entertainment budget can only go so far and every company is starting up a new super-hero universe. In general, this means that the quantity available of many new issues will be less than the market might demand. Complete information and artwork samples could help retailers and customers alike.

Marvel: Gimmick covers are not holding their own in the back issue department. The holo covers on the Spider-Man titles are not much above cover price now. Marvel has reacted to the softening of orders and retailers complaints on the many "trick" covers (at over double the cover price). They are starting to offer a standard and deluxe format from now on. Thank you Marvel! X-books still move the best with Spider-Man and any issues written by Peter David not far behind. The widest demand base has come from Ren & Stimpy fans.

DC: Superman's false return is doing well. Reader response is strong for now. DC and Carlin's team are giving us titles that people want to follow. Knightfall issues of Batman are in constant demand and short supply. The strongest increase in the reader base is still with the Vertigo line. When the national publicity hits on this line I expect to see a tidal wave of new customers.

Valiant: Back issue prices have stalled on the early Valiant issues in stock. We have cut back our buying margins in anticipation of upcoming price adjustments. New issue sales are steady.

Image: So where is all of the Image product we ordered months ago. Plain and simple if it is not ready to print don't ask us to order it. Spawn has the best release record, the most issues out of any Image title and surprise, the largest readership and back issue demand.

Other items: Manufactured Ashcans editions. These little items are going to paint themselves into a corner. For you who do not know these little items are made as advanced signed black & white editions of full color comics. They are not made available through the normal channels in the direct market, so most people haven't heard about them. What is supposed to make them special is that they come out BEFORE the ACTUAL comic. They are made to be sold (not given away or used) for $35.00. Most are signed and numbered and limited. Now the rub is this: since these are coming out FIRST that makes what WE are buying and our CUSTOMERS are buying, technically REPRINTS! Most people don't know this. I would like to hear your comments on this here in CBM.

TERRIFYINGLY GOOD SERVICE

TM & © 1992 Marvel Entertainment Group Inc. All rights reserved.

NEW ISSUE EXPRESS

EARLY ORDER SERVICE

We put the **SERVICE** back into subscription service with these features:

* **ALL NEW COMICS SHIPPED BAGGED, BOARDED & BOXED**
* **NO SHIPPING OR SERVICE CHARGES**
* **HUGE SELECTION (Anything in the 200 + pg. Previews magazine, Previews sent w/packet)**
* **TOLL-FREE ORDER LINE**

Send $3 for New Issue Express Order Packet

NEW GRAPHICS EXPRESS

BACK ISSUE CATALOG

Our back issues sizzle to you with the speediest service in the industry.

* **24 HR. TURN-AROUND ON IN-STOCK VISA, MC, COD & MO'S**
* **ALL BACK ISSUES BAGGED & BOARDED**
* **TOLL-FREE ORDERING**
* **ALL BOOKS GUARANTEED NM-M**

Send $1 for Back Issue Catalog

P.O. BOX 877-0
WARRENTON, VA 22186
PH: 703-439-2489

AVALANCHE COMICS

WE BURY HIGH PRICES!

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE OFFERS:
FREE DIAMOND PREVIEWS
FREE POSTAGE, NO SERVICE CHARGE
FREE BAGS AND BOARDS ON ALL COMICS
CUSTOMIZED SHIPPING BOXES

VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

20% OFF ALL MERCHANDISE IN PREVIEWS CATALOG

BACK ISSUES PRICED BY CURRENT OVERSTREET

7200 W. ALAMEDA • LAKEWOOD, CO 80226 • (303) 937-3703

PERRY MARGOLIN
Complete Comics Company
1720 Kaahumanu Ave.
Wailuku, HI 96793
(808) 242-5875

Aloha from Maui, Hawaii! Here in our neck of the Pacific, the customer demand is for recent (5 years ago and less) issues, with little or no demand for other items. This should change over the next few months as the speculator mania dies down.

Market Overview - As you read this, we are well into the Battle of the Bulge - the Summer of the Glut, with so many titles scheduled to appear there are bound to be spot shortages around the country, due to the forced conservatism, of dealer orders. Retailer finances are finite, and are stretched to the limit right now. Re-orders are extremely slow to non-existent. We strongly recommend that customers put in their orders early, or buy new issues as soon as possible, they may not be available soon after publication. This does not mean there is a short supply of copies, just that you may have to wait for re-orders to come in at your friendly neighborhood comics shop.

After the inevitable shake-out of this summer, we will see a leaner market overall. DC is already into a mini-implosion, Marvel will probably hold out until 1994, in order to have a positive end of year stock report, but we expect them to cut back from the present 200 titles to about 120.

Marvel: Take my Marvels... please! Marvel sales are not dropping, they're plummeting. Only the lag time on orders seem to have kept their market share up. We're even seeing some slack in the perennial X-related titles - not a promising sign.

DC: DC has a solid audience, and should be able to maintain a healthy 16-20% market share. Their apparent emphasis on story, not gimmicks, is paying off in steady sales. Darkstars is still a sleeper, watch for this title to break out soon. Vertigo titles have found their level, but we are facing a Vertigo mini-glut of titles later this year. Interest is being shown in Legionnaires, Flash, and J. Moore issues of Valor. Knightfall flies off the racks, but many customers have said they don't like the concept of Bat-Azrael, and will be dropping the title after #500. We think they'll be back, and soon. Interest in the new Superman storyline is steady, with the issues featuring the "Kid" selling slightly better. If he's not Supes, let him join the Legionnaires.

Image: Slight erosion as more titles come out, but scheduling and variations on books from what was solicited still a big problem. Spawn is the key Image title, with a marked drop on issue #10 sales that should correct itself after #11. Sorry, Dave. Shaman's Tears #1 a great seller, Youngblood dropping but steady. Put out some non-funeral covers, guys, and you're set.

Valiant: Solid books, solid audience, steady back issue sales. 'Nuff said.

Other Indies - Malibu's pushing the heck out of Ultraverse, look for Prime to hit, the rest will probably not see up to expectations. Tread carefully. Dark Horse has a market niche, and should stick to what they do best. some late books have impacted sales here. A big surprise has been Harris' Vampirella and Cain - solid sellers and getting hard to re-stock. continuity Deathwatch titles in demand. All Viz titles except Sanctuary solid sellers.

Special note: Non-Marvel, Non-DC titles have had over 50% of the market for 2 months now - look for this to go up to 60%, as Marvel and DC battle for the remaining 40%.

In closing, a note to publishers - you can't get shelf exposure if you don't publish the books on a reasonable schedule. Marvel's schedule is a shambles, shipping an apparently random selection of books each week. Hype doesn't equal sales without the product, guys and gals. To customers - try something new, don't keep buying out of habit, keep your retailer informed of your needs and, most of all, read and enjoy those books! Our motto: Feed your imagination!

RORY ROOT
MARK STEICHMAN
CARSON HALL
TRACY MILLER
Comic Relief
2138 University Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 843-5002

Greetings from the balmy Bay Area. Summer is here and you know what that means - annuals, crossovers, and specials galore! Thanks again to CBM for letting us share our tips and knowledge about the wonderful world of comics.

Overview - Marvel: Mighty Marvel is still losing steam. Maximum Carnage is still hot, but overall, Marvel's sales are not keeping up with their proliferation of new titles. Venom still pulls his weight, as do the X-Titles, but not as dynamically as they use to.

DC: Knightfall is, of course, the hottest thing at DC this month, with both the collectors and the readers. Professor Zoom's masquerade as Barry Allen has made the Flash a current sellout. Sales of the Reign Of The Superman have been disappointing. Death will outsell rebirth every time.

Independent: What's hot? Right now Image is the word on the street. Shaman's Tears is selling fast. Spawn is seducing the "serious" comic readers with guest writers such as Neil Gaiman, Alan Moore, and Dave Sim. With good stuff like this, Image has proven itself a force to be reckoned with. Shadoman #16 was a quick sellout largely due to investor/speculators banking on advance word of a new character. Generally though, Valiant is slowing down. Continuity, a lesser known publisher, has been a consistent sellout recently with it's Deathwatch 2000 crossover series. Manga, which has always been popular in this area, has seen a resurgence of interest, especially titles such as Ranma 1/2 and Orion. Fans of the comics medium should take notice of Scott McCloud's new book Understanding Comics, from Tundra. We just can't praise it enough!

Recent - Marvel: Venom's appearances in Amazing Spider-Man are consistent back issue sellers, as are Carnage's intro. (#361-362) and The First Gambit (X-Men #266). Sam Keith's well drawn Marvel Comics Presents Stories with Wolverine are also popular (#85-92).

DC: Back issues of "Pre-Vertigo" Vertigo titles such as Black Orchid and Books Of Magic sell solidly despite paperback compilations of the material. The same phenomenon continues with Sandman back issues. Joe Quesada is the hot artist of the moment, with Sword Of Azrael #1 selling briskly at $15.00 and the Ray mini-series selling as fast as we can stock it. Sales of Super-Man #75 have, predictably, slowed considerably.

Indepent: Again Valiant is, in some dases, over-valued. Examples are BLOODSHOT #1 - ours are $6.50, folks. Image back issues, however, do extremely well. With Savage Dragon #1 & #2 and Spawn #1-5 selling well slightly over guide. Other popular back issues are the Crow, Vampirella, Dave McKean's Cages and Jeff Smith's excellent new series, Bone.

Silver Age - The top selling back issue, bar none, continues to be EC's MAD! At prices over guide, these comics and magazines show no signs of slowing and are requested almost daily. EC Horror is also quite popular. Sales of Atlas-Marvels fantasy Titles (1958-1961) soared in all grades and 1950's Atlas horror titles did almost as well. The war titles perked up a bit, but sales of westerns (other than the Atlas-Marvels with Kirby art), crime, and romance books (except the Millie titles, as usual) are moderate to slow.

Silver Age Marvel keys were selling well in very high grades and very low grades but otherwise the Silver Age Marvel boom seems over for now. 1970's titles such as Monster Of Frankenstein, Son Of Satan and Marvel Team-Up sold over guide in high grade only.

DC Silver Age is still climbing in some areas such as Showcase, early Lois Lanes 80 Page Giants, Metal Men, and, of course, early keys in any grade. As for the 70's, Kamandi, Forever People, New Gods, early Witching Hour, and Neal Adams Detective Comics sold well in high grade.

Silver Age Archies sell firmly in high grade priced way over guide. Classics Illustrated sell steadily in all prints and grades. A new development that we noticed was that many of our MAD customers are branching into non-EC humor titles such as HELP, HUMBUG, and TRUMP. This may have been spurred by the unfortunate loss of the Kurtz-man himself. Rest in peace Harvey, we've always loved you.

Hanna-Barbara Gold Keys continue to do well. Gold Key Solar, Magnus, and Turok have slowed a bit, but still generate some interest.

Golden Age - Timelys are slow, believe it or not, even Captain America. Fiction House comics, on the other hand, are very popular, especially Planet Comics. A surprising trend is the interest in strip reprint titles such as Famous Funnies, King Ace, Tip-Top, and Spirit Sections - many we consider to be undervalued and historic books. Golden Age DCS are modest but stable sellers.

SLEEPERS - Marvel Star Treks, Silver

Age Archies - High grades do well, low grades do well, but VG thru FN+ are slow and might sell better under guide.

That sums it up for us right now. Thanks for reading and enjoy your summer!

WILLIAM H. FEIST III
Book Trader
Dakota Square Mall
Minot, ND 58701
(701) 838-1694

Introduction - Hey, Hey! It's book trader Bill with my market report for Overstreet Comic Book Monthly. Hopefully, I and my staff will be able to contribute something worthwhile

In fact, I'll begin this report with some information. North Dakota has four major cities, (Fargo, Grand Forks, Bismarck and Minot) each of which currently supports one or two comic store. In the case of Fargo (North Dakota's largest city), there may also be one or two stores across the Red River in Moorehead, MN. To my knowledge there are no other stores located in smaller cities/towns in the state.

Book Trader is a single store occupying 500 square hallway of Dakota Square Mall between a video arcade and a sports card shop Book Trader began as a used book store in early 1984 and moved into the comics market two years later. Book Trader currently carries a mixture of used books, new and back issue comics, role-playing games and accessories for all of the above.

This is a very rural retail environment; the average shopper at Book Trader/Dakota Square Mall travels sixty (60) miles one-way to shop. That means that for every customer who travels across town, another one has travelled 120 miles to shop at our store! Like I said: very, very rural.

our customer base is pretty much like that in the rest of the industry - young males from about twelve years old to the late twenty's. The age spread may skew somewhat older than elsewhere in the country because of the Air Force Base, but not remarkably so.

As elsewhere in the country, speculation is a strong force in North Dakota. One of the most commonly asked questions by young and old alike as they look at a back issue or latest polybagged release with the gold foil, radioactive, glow-in-the-dark cover is, "Is this/Will this be worth anything [in the near future]?" Like many other retailers, I am waiting for the bottom to fall out of the speculator-driven comics market. The flea markets are already beginning to fill up with people who bought 100 of that latest "hot" cover (forget the story inside because nobody reads that, do they?). I am also hearing more about people speculating on the computer nets. We use the computer nets ourselves to search out and find hot back issues that are in high demand amongst our customers and in low supply at our regular distributor(s).

Golden Age - In this area, good Golden Age comics are rare. Not many bring them in for sale and not many are sold.

Silver Age - Ditto for Silver Age, although there is great demand (and virtually no supply) for Classics Illustrated.

Bronze Age - Sales of Bronze Age comics here fluctuate by title with what is hot in the Current Age comics It it's hot, it's hot and if it's not, it's definitely not!

Current Age - DC continues to grow in market share with the introduction of their 'Reign of the Supermen' and 'Batman: Knightfall' stories. Surprisingly, the sales of new *Superman* titles did not drop off as significantly as expected after all the hoopla about *Superman* #75 ended. In fact, *Superman* sales are holding very steady at numbers about ten times the pre-*Superman* #75 sales for each individual *Superman* title. *Batman* : Knightfall is definitely the storyline to watch this Summer! We are being hard pressed to keep enough copies in the store and back issue sales are very brisk. For those who speculate in the comics market, *Batman* #497 is a particularly hot item to watch. Gee, I which DC had warned some of us retailers about this item, or was it just us way up here in the frozen north who missed the word?

Also, the *Bloodlines Annuals* are getting good reviews from my customers. This is in stark contrast to comments (or the lack thereof) made about the annuals of another company I'll mention later.

DC's Vertigo line has a small, but loyal, following here. *Sandman*, of course continues to dominate that line of titles. Again, this is in stark contrast to the mature titles being carried by Marvel/Epic, which have had virtually no reaction whatsoever (other than yawns) from our customers.

There is also a great deal of customer anticipation about the various upcoming Elseworlds titles featuring the Batman.

Dark Horse: Locally, it is *Aliens*, *Predator*, *Aliens vs. Predator* and *Star Wars* in both current and back issue sales. In fact, the overall interest in *Star Wars* overall (comics, games, miniatures, etc.) is phenomenal. also the *Next Men* are holding their own in current sales. Little has been said about Comics Greatest World and it will be interesting to see how this new universe does.

Defiant: All of the comments registered here have been very negative about *Plasm* #0. No one has shown any interest in this item. Maybe *Plasm* #1 in comic book form will fare better.

Image: *Spawn* continues to do well. More recently, *Shaman's Tears* (great work, Mike Grell) and *Deathblow* sold out quite well. Other Image titles continue to be hurt by customer distrust due to the erratic release (dare I say it?) schedule. I really believe that many of the Image titles would do much better if the customer's trust could be earned once again. I am also hearing many comments about the art being very reminiscent of fairly recent Marvel work. Many customers openly comment on how Character X from Image is almost an artistic clone of Character Y from Marvel.

Malibu: protectors is doing surprisingly well for a non-mainstream publisher title. I am also beginning to hear comments about the Ultraverse resulting from the recent TV commercials. It will be interesting to see if sales follow. I also expect *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* to do well, primarily because we have a strong *Star Trek* following here.

Marvel: Continues to hold the majority of the market share in North Dakota, However, customer comments are generally running more negative than positive lately. The true 'Marvel-phile' is male and twelve to 18 years old. The older readers who were 'Marvel-philes' are now beginning to comment on the repetitiveness of the stories and art and general confusion about the direction of many popular stories. A popular comment I have heard frequently is the wish that Marvel would put out less quantity and more quality. Marvel's 'Heavy Hitters' completely struck out. The Maximum Carnage storyline has also done surprisingly poorly. Although the average Spidey-fan enjoyed the Venom mini-series, they have repeatedly rejected attempts to sell Maximum Carnage. Even sales on the recently released X-Men 30th Anniversary hologram has not done as well as expected. In fact, that appears to be true of most cover enhancements lately. Again, customer comments indicate that they want quality story and art inside rather than fancy gimmicks outside The *2099* set of stories is one very bright point, however, in Marvel's universe. Interest continues to be quite strong in the *Spider-Man* and *Doom 2099* stories. Anticipation for *X-Men 2099* is quite high. *Punisher 2099* sales are dropping, however, and *Ravage 2099* never did do particularly well. *2099 Unlimited* was a major disappointment. Too much of a good thing, maybe?

Nec: The Tick is a minor title with a very loyal following. It even does well in back issue!

Topps: The Bram Stoker's Dracula movie adaptation and Topps' more recent Dracula: Vlad The Impaler have done well. Their Jack Kirby storyline has not done well at all here

Valiant: Valiant continues to hold its own, but I don't see any real growth as of late.

Cards - Skybox: The lackluster feeling about Marvel seems to be overflowing into other Marvel related markets such as Marvel Series IV from Skybox. I also think many customers were spoiled by the Marvel Masterpiece Cards which they would buy in a heartbeat if any could be found!

Well, I have probably written too much this time. Next time will be much shorter, I promise. Until then... Hey, hey! It's Book Trader Bill and I'll see ya in the funny papers!

RICH CONLEY
Heroes & Fantasies
742 Barchester
San Antonio, TX 78216
(210) 341-5567

A big howdy from South Texas! As usual, it's about 2:00 a.m. as I begin to formalize this month's Market Report. The sales data from our eight outlets suggests some market corrections are starting to occur, and there seems to be a strengthening of demand for proven back issues and some inexpensive speculative books (although this could also be simply new readership). Here's a recap of what we've seen in the past thirty days...

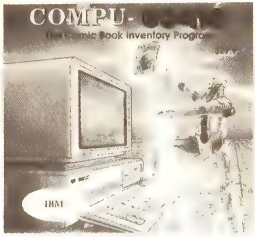
Pre-Golden Age Material - The only pre-Golden Age books we've seen in this

GET YOUR COMICS ORGANIZED with

COMPU-COMIC

Money Back Guaranty

The Industry Standard in Comic Collecting Software



"Compu-Comic is GREAT!! It's the program I've been looking for to file my collection on computer."
— Leo Ilog, San Diego, California

"I enjoyed your program very much. Thank you."
— Gbenga Sawyerr, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

"Outstanding. Your printouts are exactly what I have been looking for. Updating the values looks to be like it will be an easy task. Overall I am extremely pleased."
— Ronald Plourde, Leominster, Massachusetts

COMPU-COMIC is fast, flexible and extremely easy to learn and use. ... But don't be fooled, it's also a powerful interactive database which will satisfy the most experienced computer user.

JUST A FEW OF COMPU-COMIC'S MANY FEATURES

User-friendly menu driven operation • Accurate, up-to-the-minute inventory control • Extensive search capabilities • Complete information maintained on each comic • Professional want lists, profit reports, and inventory printouts in various formats • Printouts redirected to screen or file • Label printing • Automatic foreign currency conversion • Value and profit tracking • Data Backup capability • Easy to read documentation . . . and MORE.

COMPU-COMIC is available at fine comic shops worldwide in either IBM 5.25" or 3.5" formats. If you can't find it in your area, send check or money-order for only $29.95 + $3.00 p&h (in Canada $34.95 + $2.50 p&h + $2.62 GST) or $3.00 for a Demo Disk to:

MasterCard

Compu-Comic Software Associates, P.O. Box 5570-CBM4
Station B, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3B 4P1

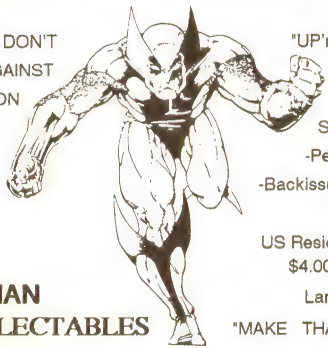
VISA

VISA, MasterCard or COD orders call 1-800-753-2001 24hrs a day or for info call 1-514-733-6620, 9am-5pm EST. Overnight and 2nd day delivery also available.

© 1992 and TM COMPU-COMIC Software Associates. All rights reserved.

"WE'RE KICKIN BUTT!" 30% to 40% OFF NEW COMICS!

"NEW COMIC PRICES DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST OUR SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE!"
"JOIN OUR TEAM TO FIGHT THE WAR ON HIGH PRICES."



"UP'n Coming" is **FREE.**
-Canadian Owned.
-Only $4.95 for Shipping in Canada.
-Personalized Service.
-Backissues, Trading Cards, Comic Supplies.
US Residents Please Send $4.00 Postage for our Large Order Pack.
"MAKE THAT CALL...BUB!"
"YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID."

CANADIAN COMICS & COLLECTABLES EXPRESS

P.O.BOX 5169 PEACE RIVER
ALBERTA CANADA T8S1R8

PHONE 403-624-1224
FAX 403-624-4681

TM & © 1992 Marvel Entertainment Group Inc. All rights reserved.

Gold! - Silver! - Hot!

DEALERS:
Buy/Sell list twice a week!

COLLECTORS:
FREE faxing of your Want List
& For Sale List to major dealers
Nationwide!

CALL - WRITE - FAX TODAY!

COMIC-FINDER
THE FAX NETWORK
114 West 8th St.
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

Phone: (717) 573-9643
FAX: (707) 573-0345

© Pat S. Calhoun

reporting period are a few b&w strip reprints of Mutt & Jeff. These interesting books (a #1 from 1910 and #2 from 1911, along with a #6) were quite a conversation piece. In fact, we even had a Cable TV crew come in and do a story about collecting comics and related memorabilia. Although the guide prices for these books is very low (relative to their availability), we finally accepted an offer of $1250 for the three books which guide at about $250 in total (all were VG+/-). The ultimate buyer felt, as we did, that these books turn up so infrequently that the OPG simply didn't have any recent sales information to use in determining a national price measurement. Regardless, all parties were satisfied with the transactions.

Golden Age - Sales & Acquisition: Golden Age material has been far easier to sell than it has been to buy! In the recent past, we were able to regularly acquire Golden Age accumulations at 30-40% of guide. Not any more! The only reasonably large Golden Age collection cost us about 55% of guide, and it was for Dells and Fawcetts, and not all were mainline titles! We got a run of Nyoka, Marvel Family, Four Color (about 250 different issues), and some odd-ball Western Titles. Nonetheless, the vast majority of these books sold at or above OPG 23 within four weeks. The books that sold at above guide prices, generally, were those that were VG or less, and VF or better.

Some of the books that sold in the past month are: *Nyoka* 2 (#1) FN/VF $150; *Betty & Veronica* #1 VF+ $550; *Superboy* #4 FN+ $200; *Two-Fisted Tales* 19 (#2) FN+ $175; *Miss Fury Comics* 6 NM $400; *Marvel Family* #2-4 NM (a really nice set of three books!) $950; *Four Color* 15 (Felix the Cat #1) FN+ $200; and *Two-Gun Kid* 7 VF/NM $100.

My observations about the demand for Golden Age material have not changed since last report. Demand is beginning to outstrip supply. Long-term visioned collectors and investors are viewing the Golden Age with a renewed vigor. VG is a very acceptable grade (note: they must be solid VG specimens), and cover art appeal is of primary concern. There has been a significant exodus of collectors locking in profits on newer material (notably Valiants & Image books) and re-investing in Golden Age material. More on this in the "Modern Material" section.

Pre-Silver Age and Silver Age Material - Pre-Silver Age books have seen a real increase in popularity. The quest for Silver Age Keys and High Grade non-keys remains high, but the change in the marketplace has been the demand for pre-Silver Age material. Every copy of the "Timely Renaissance" (*Young Men* 24-27, *Sub-Mariner* 33-42, *Human Torch* 36-38, and *Men's Adventure* 28) we had in stock disappeared over this time period. Most of the early horror/monster books (Atlas, Superior, E.C., etc.) continue to sell very quickly, too. The slowest material from this era is the humorous animal and romance books (unless they're in very high grade).

Many folks are looking for minor Silver Age Keys as a way to pick some books up at bargain prices. Amongst the highest in demand are *Fantastic Four* 3, 6, & 8; *Amazing Spider-Man* 3,4, & 6; *Lois Lane* 70 & 71; *Superman* 146 & 199; all early Marvel & DC Annuals (pre-'65), and Gold Key Turoks. Titles in highest demand are those that have just started to enjoy price increases: *Strange Tales*, *Rip Hunter*, *Challengers*, *Green Lantern*, and many Gold Keys (*Star Trek*, all TV Photo Cover series, and Magnus/Solar/ Turok).The quest for high grade copies is frustrating, and many collectors are buying mid-grade books - but it usually requires a bit of skillful negotiation to settle upon the right final price. Flaws such as Marvel Chipping are becoming more acceptable, especially when the book is an otherwise VF copy, while paper color and quality (suppleness) are becoming increasingly important to the Silver Age collector.

Recent sales include: *Flash* #110 VG/FN $350; *Amazing Adventures* #6 NM $295; *Sgt. Fury* #1 VG $150; *House of Mystery* #143 VF $125; *Tales of Suspense* #53 NM $95; *X-Men* #9 NM (meeting of Marvel's two Teams) $180; and *Amazing Spider-Man* #4 GD $95.

Post Silver Age - This era remains the hardest one we have to manage. Few of the books (other than the handful of keys) realize memorable price levels, and none of the titles could be called hot. However, these are a lot of savvy collectors picking up nice copies of *Kamandi*, *Conan*, *Jonah Hex*, and *Invaders* at prices of $5 and less. In addition, sales of 20-cent and 25-cent cover price issues seem to also be on the move. Even some of the titles we thought we'd never sell (mid-numbers of Daredevil and Justice League, for example) have been moving faster than ever.

Part of the demand has come from the recent influx of new fans, with a significant addition of collectors who have returned to the hobby after having abandoned it years ago. Most of these folks have been drawn

back in due to all of the publicity comics have received in the recent months (thanks, again, DC for Doomsday & Knightfall).

Modern Material - The key characters being discussed continue to be Batman and Superman. The demand for the Reign of the Superman and Knightfall storylines has been steadily growing, and recent back issues are becoming scarcer (more so of the Knightfall books than the Superman books). *Batman* #492 brings $12 already! Other DC books haven't fared as well, with sales numbers becoming weaker in general.

Marvel continues to "glitz" us to death with embossed, die-cut, holo-prism, fold-out, glow-in-the-dark, and play-the-game issues. This isn't bad, because, as a retailer, I like to sell out of books, and Marvel books have a stronger shelf-sales rate than those from any other publisher (taken as a whole, not by title). The highest demand Marvels remain the X-titles, Wolverine, Spider-titles, 2099-series, and Ren & Stimpy. Maximum Carnage has been a strong hit than we anticipated (folks can't get enough of that Venom action), while the Infinity Crusade is to infinitely long and drawn out. Enough already! No eye-popping prices to report on recent Marvels.

Image books are finally being issued at regular intervals, and, instead of making the books hotter, they've been cooling off. I have been glad they've done things like solicit *Bloodstrike* at $1.95 and send us a $2.95 book - we returned almost 50% of our original purchase! The only book that exhibits continuing demand is Spawn. McFarlane is making it a class act that the rest of the creative folks publishing through Image should emulate. *Spawn* #5 is scarce down here, and sells immediately at $5. Issue #3 brings $6. Enthusiasm for Pitt was high and sustained, but since we haven't been able to predict when issue #2 might appear, we haven't been able to sell a copy of #1 for weeks. It also didn't help when newsstand varieties began to appear.

The Valiant lottery gimmick isn't working (*Shadowman* #16 sold out due to a lot of speculation around Dr. Mirage). We have gone from being almost Valiant-less (pre-Unity books) in all eight stores, to having a serious glut. In order to move these books we've taken some serious price cuts. The only pre-Unity books that move at Overstreet prices are *Rai* #3 & 4, *Solar* #1-4, and *Magnus* #12 (although I expect to see the Turok appearances start falling shortly). We have cut our orders of new Valiant books down to the level of the lower-demand DC and Marvel books.

Topps has done a good job marketing material that has not generally done well in comic form. Their combination of card/comic packaging is not a new idea, but is working. Sales on a per-title basis for Topps is good and back issues continue selling at moderate rates. *Dracula* #1 (1st prints) bring $8.

Dark Horse is struggling with high-priced Aliens books that vie for the meager collector's budget. I would like to see the cover price get back down the $1.95. Most readers of the Dark Horse books seem to be their regulars, with minimal new readership. The Star Wars stories could have brought new readers, but the quality of the material is less eye-appealing than what DC, Marvel, and Image is producing. Sitting on a new book rack with hundreds of other titles, these books are too often ignored.

We're keeping our fingers crossed for Continuity The initial reaction to this line has been good, and many readers of the first books have added them to their pull & hold lists. We suspect that many shops ignored this line and this may be something like the next Valiant. Only time will tell

Finally, we need to address Defiant. Jim Shooter has great plans and the first of his brain children to appear is the Plasm card series Unfortunately, the binders didn't come at the same time, and the allocation/production problem has a lot of Customers up in arms. As a retailer, I have a hard time telling collectors that ordered binders that I can't deliver. I believe that if the product is good, you'll have the sell-thrus you need and will have made a mark in the collectibles market.

Trading Cards - Marvel IV is off to a great start, following on the heels of Star Wars Galaxy, another tremendous success The Star Trek Deep Space Nine sets have sold very well, again, a coup for Skybox. Collectors have been happy to be able to be able to pick up sets which include the chase cards at a reasonable price

Deathwatch cards have been poorly received, and the jury is still out on the Plasm cards. Comic Images did a nice job on the Soryama cards, but they haven't taken off like the Star Wars and Marvel IV cards have.

As far as recent issues go, all Skybox Marvels still sell very well. So do the Marvel character cards by Comic Images (*Wolverine, Spider-Man, Punisher, Ghost Rider*). The DC cards have slowed down as have most of the art cards (Olivia, Kelly, Boris, etc.).

Vintage non-sports cards are getting

The Emporium of Popular Culture Artifacts
WEX REX
Has Tuned Into A New Station
as of June 1, 1993 can be found at:
Station: Twinboro Plaza
Rte. 20, 1 Mile West of 495
Marlboro - 508-229-2662
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10-6
Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-2
Totally Un-Predicta-able!
Cartoon, Comic & Character Collectibles
Robots - Autographs - Records - Tapes - CDs
Posters - Nostalgia - Comics - Disney - Sci Fi
TV & Movie Memorabilia - Monsters - Watches
Western - G.I. Joes - Beatles - Monkees - Kiss - Elvis
Producer - Collectible Extravaganzas™ - Nationwide

CLASSIC TOYS
TRADING CARDS
Limited Edition Set of 66 Cards With Checklist
Full Color Game Cards With Information and Statistics On Each Collectible Items
MOVIES, HITS, GAMES, LUNCHBOXES, TV TOYS, ROBOTS, MONSTERS
Suggested Retail $3.00 per Pack of 8 Cards/2 Cards Full Box of 36 Packs $75.00 Full Case of 20 Boxes $360.00
Wholesale To The Toy Trade
WEX REX
Toys & Collectibles
508-229-2662

HORRORMANIA
COLLECTIBLES SHOW & SALE
SUNDAY OCT. 3rd 1993
ORLANDO FLORIDA
TWIN TOWERS HOTEL
Across The Street From UNIVERSAL STUDIOS
Produced By Gary Sohmers Wax Box Collectibles
Box 702 Hudson MA 01749 508-568-0856
MOVIE, SCI TOYS & COMICS TRADING CARDS SCIENCE FICTION POSTERS & GAMES TV & MOVIE PROPS HORROR ARTIFACTS BOOKS & MAGAZINES STAR WARS & STAR TREK MEMORABILIA COLLECTIBLES

7th ANNUAL COLLECTIBLES NORTHEAST EXTRAVAGANZA
A Multitudinous Amalgam of Investment Quality Artifacts of Popular Culture & Antiquity
SAT. & SUN. DECEMBER 4th & 5th
"AN ABSOLUTELY MIND-BOGGLING HIGH-QUALITY EVENT" Antique Trader
OVER 500 TABLES
BAYSIDE EXPO CENTER BOSTON
The LARGEST EVENT Of Its Kind - Over 180,000 Sq. Ft. Of GOODIES
Boston International Antique & Collectible Toy Show & Sale
Artifacts, Ephemera, Sports & Non Sports Cards, Comics
Music, Vintage Advertising, Recreation & Game Room Decor
Disneyana, Movie & TV, Western, Science Fiction, Horror, Art
"Despite 20,000 show goers based on outstanding variety of collectible classes...and not subsequently attended by a reasonable group buy." Toys & Prices April 1993
"...[one] must ask each potential people and a wide variety of excellent quality merchandise to choose from" Antique Trader Dec. 27, 1991
Produced by Gary Sohmers for Show Promotion, Inc.
1-800-759-SHOW 617-963-1516 508-568-0856

3RD ANNUAL DISNEYANA
& CLASSIC TOYS SHOW & SALE
SUNDAY OCT. 3rd 1993
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
TWIN TOWERS HOTEL
In conjunction with The National Pastime Pin Club - World Chapter Convention. And the 32nd anniversary of Walt Disney World & The 18th anniversary of Epcot
Produced By Gary Sohmers Wax Box Collectibles 508-568-0856

harder to find, and sell faster than ever before. Almost any *Mars Attacks*, *Civil War News*, or Movie release (pre-'60) cards (sets or singles) move in a matter of days. Many collectors are just after "type-sets" as the quest to complete a full set of many of these cards would be a true exercise in futility. While most of the cards in any set sell for the same price, we did an auction for *Mars Attacks* #31 (Destroying the Dog) and it brought $125!

Anticipation is high for the Upped Deck release of the Valiant Universe Cards. If the final product looks as good as the promotional pieces, and the chase cards come out even better, it can't help but be a hit. We worry a bit, however, about the Jurassic Park cards - hopefully they won't be another Niktoons.

Thanks for the time and I appreciate the many letters collectors have sent giving me their opinions and comments to my last couple of reports. The more we all communicate, the stronger the hobby will be. Have a great Summer!

DR. ROGER SMYTH
Funny Business
656 Amsterdam Ave.
New York City, NY 10025
(212) 799-9477

Overview: Well, this will be rather short, and perhaps not too sweet, since we are all gearing up for a really busy summer, what with the Dark Horse Universe, the Malibu explosion, the Image-Valiant X-overs, the interest in Defiant, and the emergence of a new Batman (Robin Williams?), plus the overwhelming glut of nonsense that will be published.

Should you not be aware of how your dealer orders his/her new issues, let me explain this a bit, since it's significant in the stability of the market. We order from two to three months in advance. I've just finished my order form for June, which includes delivery weeks from Aug, 3rd through Sept. 14th. Thus, by June 18th, when my order form is due, I'll have ordered thru Sept. 14th, or three months in advance. How can we predict this??? Order sheets, sophisticated computer technology, past history of sales, and most important of all, wild guessing, and the hope against hope that we are not too far off.

I'm raising this, since I was struck by the length of the order form I completed, and decided to make a head-count. The result. 137 face-different Marvel comics (including Dirt-Bag specials, regular and foil covers of the same issue, etc., as opposed to 79 DC face-different comics. That's almost double the amount of face-different Marvels than DCs, all to grasp from you that extra dollar. I handle this by simply dividing my Marvel budget to cover all of the books with the same budget, so they aren't increasing sales with me (in fact, as I noted in last issue, I've cut my Marvel budget). We are still plunging into a Speculator's Paradise...what in the world do you need two different covers of the same book for???? If you do, I'll sell you five different covers of *X-Men* #1, cheap. I'll even include the insides. I hope my point is clear...

Current Stuff - Again, sorry to open this section with a downer, but it's important. Image plunges downward. I'm embarrassed to sell Image Plus, and Stupid (a description of the dealer who buy's it? It certainly doesn't describe the customer, who doesn't). If we are not able to return out shipment, because of late shipping, I personally will return them to the company, at my own expense. Luckily and thankfully, my distributor, Comics Unlimited, offered to place re-orders to Image, to try to override previous orders, which were late and hadn't been shipped (also to reflect current Image sales, and not the sales which were projected 6-9 months ago, when the titles were originally ordered). I simply went down the list, and slashed my orders by 60%, i.e. if I'd ordered 50 of a title, the order became 20, except for *Spawn*, which appears regularly; I only cut that by 20%. Everyone brings in back issue Images to sell, and I don't want them. I've slashed any Image back issue prices by 50% and no takers. Valiant continues to be solid, with *Bloodshot* and *Shadowman* good sell-thru's. All of the Knightfall issues, are constantly requested, and sell out, including the Showcase issues. A good, solid series for now.

Reign of the Supermen is steady, but interestingly, with the general public, not so much with subscribers, where there is no special interest. So, this may indeed by a pop phenomenon. Marvel is only requested for the X's and the Spidey's. Most everything else sells in what two years ago, would be low-line levels. Don't rush to buy'em, since you think they'll be scarce; there are lots to go around, lots, lots...

Recent Stuff - The only issues asked for are the Prologue material for Knightfall, *Vengeance of Bane* at $25; *Azrael* #1 at $20, 2-4 at $12, but not many takers. *Spawn* #1-5 are still requested, and may eventually prove solid, since the book does come out regularly, but be careful...if it ever ceases publication...boom, splat...at this point I'd charge $12 for #1, $8 for 2 and 3, and $15 for #4, but prices are dropping for these issues, and may be considerably lower by the time you read this. Interest in *Shadowman* #16 at $5; *Bloodshot* #6 at $5, sold a set of *Harbinger* #1-5, no coupons, VF for $125, which included a set discount. *Harbinger* #6, no coupon, FN/VF $15. Valiants seem to be holding up. Some minor interest in the Carnage story line from Marvel, but supplies are plentiful, so they range from cover to perhaps a $1 over.

Silver Stuff - This is where Marvel shines, as usual, especially with the *Uncanny X-Men*. All issues, all, can be readily sold at full Update. (Note: since there is really so little early Silver in "unrestored" NM, might CBM not be more useful in pricing VG, FN, and VF. The average Silver book is really VG/FN, perhaps FN at best. Any NM (94) I have would go from 20%-50% over NM (or more)...any thoughts about this?)

Kirby stuff is still requested; I'm just about out of early issues of Forever People, New Gods, Mr. Miracle, etc.; comics which I couldn't sell for $1 each 3-4 years ago, are now high priority. My recommendations remain as always, complete your X-Men, and start in on, or complete, early-mid-late 70's DCs.

End Papers - Young Indiana Jones is back on ABC, and is starting to get really delightful, with a wonderful sense of humor, try it! Please, please, please, treat yourselves to the Cochrane EC reprints. He's been forced to raise the price to $2 because of lowered newsstand sales. Not only are these books true "classics" in the history of comics, but after 40 years they remain wonderful...Enjoy...

Ed Kalb's Since 1967
COMICS BY MAIL
Specializing in Marvel, DC and all publishers from the past 25 years
• Sales catalog – send 2 stamps
• Buying catalog – send 2 stamps
(lists prices we pay for thousands)
Offering superior **service**, **selection**, **grading** and **value**
Ed Kalb
1353 S. Los Alamos
Mesa, AZ 85204
Mail order only

∞ Δ ∞
MAILING LIST OF 50 COMIC BOOK DEALERS ACROSS THE USA AND CANADA!
FOR YOUR COPY, PLEASE SEND $5.00 US FUNDS OR $6.00 CANADIAN FUNDS IN CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:
THE SECOND-SHIFT CREW
30 DILLMONT DR #305-C
COLUMBUS OH 43235-6424
Ohio residents please add 29¢ sales tax
Ω ∞ Ω

Introduction

Welcome to another issue of *Overstreet's Comic Book Monthly*, the most accurate and dependable Price Guide magazine for comic books and non-sports cards in the nation!

The first Overstreet COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE was published in 1970 and has been published every year since then. The first issue of Overstreet's Comic Book Price Update (supplement to the annual Overstreet Price Guide #12) was published in the Fall of 1982. After a few years of publishing a mid-year Update, the comic market finally demanded a more frequent price report. The Update eventually became a bi-monthly Overstreet's Comic Book Monthly is now the official monthly price guide magazine for Overstreet Publications.

GENERAL INFORMATION

About Pricing: The prices shown in the price guide section represent an honest and responsible evaluation of current market values. The prices represent an average of dealer retail prices compiled from data supplied by our Board Of Special Advisors. Prices often vary widely from region to region because supply and demand factors often vary. Therefore, each buyer and seller should determine prices based on both prices listed here and regionally specific supply and demand factors.

The Listed Prices in this Guide, particularly on more expensive books, are a "moving average" of the market prices realized over the past month. Thus prices are constantly being recorded and averaged prior to the release of each issue. It is important for collectors to understand that since the Overstreet price is an average, it will never be the same as the highest or lowest most recent sale price.

Collectors will, at some point, attempt to sell some or all of their acquisitions at a wholesale price to dealers. It is important to remember that dealers buy comics in order to resell them to other collectors. Therefore, dealers will always pay a higher percentage for issues that they think can be sold quickly and a much lower percentage for items that have a low demand. Dealers must always buy at a percentage that allows for their overhead, plus a fair margin of profit. Most dealers will pay anywhere from 25-75% of the prices listed in this guide depending on inventory needs and local market conditions. However, material from the past 10 to 15 years is readily available and dealers may only offer a very small amount (20% or less) or may not be interested at all.

PRICING NEW COMICS:

This guide lists retail prices of most current comic books. The latest issues are usually listed at cover price, except in certain cases when market conditions warrant.

PRICING LOWER GRADES

Prices listed in this Guide are for comic books in Very Good (VG), Very Fine (VF) & Near Mint (NM) condition. The value of a comic in a lower grade is a specific percentage of the near mint value. To find the correct price spread for a specific book, consult the annual *Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide*. Please note, however, that price spreads vary, based on many factors including demand, rarity in grade, and overall rarity.

PRICING INDICATORS

♦ = An issue that has increased in price since last issue.
– = An issue that has decreased in price since last issue.
H = A high demand issue that is currently in vogue.

GRADING COMICS

Grading comic books is essentially describing its condition, which may range from absolutely perfect "newsstand" condition (MINT) to extremely worn, dirty, and torn (POOR). For a more detailed instruction on the art of grading comic books, consult *The Overstreet Comic Book Grading Guide* available in most book stores, comic specialty shops, or direct from Overstreet Publications.

POLYBAGGED COMICS

It is the official policy of Overstreet Publications to grade comics regardless of whether they are still sealed in their polybag or not. The polybag and it's entire contents may be preserved so that all components of the original manufactured product remain together.

RESTORED COMICS

Since this hobby began it has always been tempting for the dealer or collector to perform repairs on comic books. In the past, tape was used to seal tears, rips, loose covers, and centerfolds and spine reinforcement. It is now known that many tapes are very damaging to paper. Today, most repairs are done with neutral pH glues, special invisible papers, and webbing reinforcement.

For years now, comic books have had minor to major restoration work performed. It is very important for the novice collector to understand that most repaired/restored books are not worth the same as books in the same grade in their ***original*** condition. The more expensive the book, the more likely it has been restored. After restoration, these books are not actually in higher grades, but are altered lower grade books that are described by their **Apparent Grade**. Some books do need to be repaired and/or restored to improve to preserve them.

Note: The lower the grade, the less objectionable repairs/restoration become. In fact, low grade books sell better when they have been cleaned to achieve a better visual appeal. Whenever possible, books should be examined very closely for repairs and restoration before purchase. Some of the major things to look for are: bleached/whitened pages and covers, trimmed pages and covers, spine and tear reinforcement, glue, replaced staples, replaced sections of the cover, wrinkles pressed from covers, recolored (color touch) and reglossed covers.

Dealers should disclose any known restoration at the time of sale. Any restoration is considered a defect because it is an alteration of the original condition of the book.

GRADING DEFINITIONS

The hardest part of evaluating a comic is being objective, and knowing what characteristics to look for in making your assessment. Very Important: A book must be graded in its entirety, considering **all** defects. Do not grade just the cover alone. A book in any of the grades listed must be in **Original Unrestored Condition**. Restored books must be described as such. After examining a comic book thoroughly, one of the eight grades at right may be assigned.

This easy reference chart shows (a) the nomenclature grade, (b) the Overstreet two letter grade abbreviation, (c) the high, middle, and low numerical equivalency for each nomenclature grade.

The 8 Nomenclature Grades and The Overstreet Numerical Equivalent

	Numerical Grade			
Grade/abbreviation	High	Middle	Low	Point Spread
Mint (MT)	100	99	98	(3)
Near Mint (NM)	97	94	90	(8)
Very Fine (VF)	89	82	75	(15)
Fine (FN)	74	65	55	(20)
Very Good (VG)	54	45	35	(20)
Good (GD)	34	25	15	(20)
Fair (FR)	14	10	5	(10)
Poor (PR)	4	3	1	(4)

and (d) the point spread for each nomenclature grade.

THE EIGHT NOMENCLATURE GRADES AND THEIR NUMERIC RANGE*

MINT (MT) (ONE 100-98) Near perfect in every way. Only the most subtle bindery or printing defects are allowed. Cover is flat with no surface wear. Cover inks are bright with high reflectivity and minimal fading. Corners are cut square and sharp. Staples are generally centered and clean with no rust. Cover is generally centered and firmly secured to interior pages. Paper is supple and fresh. Spine is tight and flat.

NEAR MINT (NM) (ONE 97-90) Nearly perfect. Cover is flat with no surface wear. Cover inks are bright with high reflectivity and minimum of fading. Corners are cut square and sharp with ever so slight blunting permitted. Staples are generally centered, clean with no rust. Cover is well centered and firmly secured to interior pages. Paper is supple and like new. Spine is tight and flat.

VERY FINE (VF) (ONE 89-75) An excellent copy with outstanding eye appeal. Sharp, bright and clean with supple pages. Pages and covers can be yellowish/tannish (at the least) but not brown and will usually be off-white to white.

FINE (FN) (ONE 74-55) An exceptional, above average copy that shows minor wear but still relatively flat, clean and glossy with no subscription crease or brown margins. Typical defects include: light spine wear, minor surface wear, a light crease, minor yellowing/tanning to interior pages. Compared to a VF, cover inks are beginning to show a significant reduction in reflectivity but is still highly collectible and desirable.

VERY GOOD (VG) (ONE 54-35) The average used comic book most commonly found. This comic shows moderate wear but eye appeal has not been reduced to the point that it is not desirable. One or two minor markings on cover or minor spine roll are allowed. Lightly creased along spine or extremities, subscription crease, loose centerfold, or minor chip or piece missing allowed.

GOOD (GD) (ONE 34-15) This comic has all pages and covers, although there may be small pieces missing. Commonly creased, scuffled, abraded and soiled, but books in this grade are completely readable. Paper quality is low but not brittle.

FAIR (FR) (ONE 14-5) Very heavily read and soiled, but still complete. Damaged beyond collectibility for most collectors, brings 30-50 per cent of the Good price.

POOR (PR) (ONE 1-4) Sufficiently degraded so as to have little or no collector value. Often severely stained, abraded, defaced, or damaged beyond readability.

* The Numeric Ranges from Poor to Mint are further explained in *The Overstreet Comic Book Grading Guide*. Use the quick reference chart at left to find The their corresponding numeric range for each Nomenclature Grades.

Overstreet's Comic Book Price Guide

Adventure Comics #467, © DC

ACTION COMICS (Weekly

#601-642)
Dec. 1954-Present
National Periodical Publ./DC Comics
1-Reprint, 1988, 50¢-c 0.50
201-Last pre-code issue 58.00 131.00 175.00
202-220 50.00 113.00 150.00
221-240 40.00 90.00 120.00
241, 249-251 30.00 68.00 90.00
242-Origin & 1st app. Bramrac 217.00 488.00 650.00 H
252-Origin & 1st app. Supergirl; re-intro of Metallo, Ins 2nd appearance since Superboy #9 214.00 536.00 750.00 H
253-2nd app Supergirl 43.00 107.00 150.00 H
254-1st meeting Of Buzmo & Superman 39.00 96.00 135.00 H
255-1st Bizarro Lois Lane 26.00 64.00 90.00
256-261 17.00 43.00 60.00
262, 264-266, 268-270 13.00 32.00 45.00
263-Origin Bizarro World 19.00 46.00 65.00 H
267-3rd Legion app. 79.00 196.00 275.00 H
271-275, 277-282 -282-Last 10¢ issue 11.00 29.00 40.00
276-6th Legion app. 34.00 86.00 120.00
283-Legion Of Super-Villains app 14.00 36.00 50.00
284-Mon-El app. 14.00 36.00 50.00
285-12th Legion app. 14.00 36.00 50.00
286-289 7.00 19.00 26.00
290(7/62)-17th Legion app. Phantom Girl app.
7.00 19.00 26.00
291, 292, 294-299 5.00 13.00 18.00
293-Origin Comet 11.00 27.00 38.00
300(+[5/63) 6.00 14.00 20.00
301-303, 305-308, 310-320 3.00 9.00 12.00
304-Origin & first app. of Black Flame 4.00 11.00 15.00
309-Legion app. 4.00 10.00 14.00
321-333, 335-346 3.00 6.00 9.00
334-Giant (6/39) 5.00 11.00 16.00
341-348, 349-356 1.00 4.00 5.50
347, 360 (Giants G-33 & G-45) 2.00 7.10 10.00
361-372, 374-380 1.40 3.60 5.00
373-Giant (6/57) 2.30 5.70 8.00
381-424 411-Eclipso origin-r 1.10 2.90 4.00
425-Adams art 1.70 4.30 6.00
426-430, 438, 439 0.90 2.10 3.00
437, 443-(100 page giants) 1.40 3.50 5.00
440-1st Grell-s on Green Arrow 1.70 4.30 6.00
441-Grell-a on Green Arrow 1.40 3.60 5.00
442-444-499, 484-Earth II Superman & Lois Lane wed
0.70 1.80 2.50
500-Superman life story (1 00, 68pgs) 0.60 1.40 2.00
501-581, 554-582 0.40 1.10 1.50
552, 553-Aminal Man-c/s 1.70 4.30 6.00
583-Alan Moore 2.00 5.00 7.00
584-Byrne begins 0.40 1.10 1.50
585-599, 598-1st app. Checkmate 0.30 0.70 1.00
600-(2.50, 84 pgs.) 1.10 2.90 4.00
601-642 Weekly issues (1 50, 52 pgs.), 611-614 Catwoman stories 613-618, Nightwing stories 0.50 1.00 1.50
643-Monthly beg-s; Perez c/s, scripts 0.50 1.00 1.50
644-649, 651-661, 663-666, 668-679 644-Perez-a begins, 679-Last 1.00-c 0.40 0.70 1.00
650-(1.50 52 pgs.)-Lobo cameo 0.50 1.00 1.50
662-Superman reveals id to Lois Lane, story cont. in Superman 53
1.20 2.30 3.50
667-(1.75, 52 pgs.) 0.60 1.10 1.75
680-682 0.40 0.80 1.25
683-Doomsday cameo 2.60 4.90 7.50 H
683-2nd & 3rd printings 0.40 0.80 1.25
684-Doomsday battle issue 2.80 5.20 8.00 H
685, 686-Funeral For A Friend iss., Supergirl app.
0.70 1.30 2.00 H
685-2nd & 3rd printings 0.40 0.80 1.25
687-(1.95)-Collector's Ed. wrap-cut outer c & mini-poster; cont'd from Advs. of Superman #500 0.70 1.30 2.00
687-(1.50)-Newsstand Ed. w/mini-poster 0.50 1.00 1.50
688, 689 (1 50) 688-Guy Gardner-c/s 0.50 1.00 1.50
Annual 1 (`67)-Arthur Adams-a, Batman app.
2.10 3.90 6.00
Annual 2 (`89, 1.75)-Perez-c/a 0.70 1.30 2.00
Annual 3 (`91, 2.00, 68 pgs.) 0.70 1.30 2.00
Annual 4 (`92, 2.50) 0.90 1.60 2.50

ADAM-12 (TV)
Dec. 1973-No 10 Feb 1976 (Photo covers)
Gold Key
1 6.30 11.70 18.00
2-10 2.80 5.20 8.00

ADDAMS FAMILY (TV cartoon)
Oct, 1974-No. 3, Apr, 1975 (Hanna-Barbera)
Gold Key
1 8.60 21.40 30.00 H
2, 3 6.30 11.70 18.00 H

ADVENTURE COMICS
No 200, May,1954-No 503, Sept. 1983
National Periodical Publications/DC Comics
200 79.00 196.00 275.00
201-209 54.00 136.00 190.00
210-1st app. Krypto 471.00 1,179.00 1,650.00 H
211-213, 215-220 67.00 167.00 150.00 H
214-2nd app. Krypto 57.00 143.00 200.00 +H
221-246 241-Batman x-over (6/58) 37.00 93.00 130.00
247-1st app. Legion Of Super Heroes (4/58)
743.00 1,857.00 2,600.00
248-252, 254, 255 Green Arrow u all 27.00 68.00 95.00
253-Superboy/Rokey first meet 37.00 93.00 130.00 H
256-Origin Green Arrow 67.00 168.00 375.00 H
257-259 24.00 61.00 85.00
260-1st Silver Age origin of Aquaman (5/59)
169.00 271.00 380.00 +H
261-266, 268, 270 17.00 43.00 60.00
267-2nd Legion Of SuperHeroes 164.00 411.00 575.00 H
269-Intro Aqualad 36.00 89.00 125.00 H
271-Origin Lex Luthor retold 71.00 178.00 140.00 H
272-274, 276 280 276-3rd Metallo 15.00 34.00 45.00
275-Origin Superman/Batman team retold 33.00 75.00 100.00 H
281, 284, 287-289, 286-Bizarro cover 15.00 34.00 45.00
282-5th Legion app. 33.00 75.00 100.00
283-Intro Phantom Zone 25.00 56.00 75.00 +
285-1st Bizarro World story in Adv 23.00 53.00 70.00
286-1st Bizarro Mxyzptlk 20.00 45.00 60.00
290-8th Legion app., last 10¢ issue 30.00 68.00 90.00
291, 292, 295-298, 295-Bizarro-c 10.00 23.00 30.00
293-13th Legion app 20.00 45.00 60.00
294-1st Bizarro M. Monroe. Pres. Kennedy Bizarro cover
20.00 45.00 60.00 H
299-1st Gold Kryptonite (8/62) 12.00 28.00 35.00
300-Legion series begins (9/62) 16.00 38.00 265.00
301-Origin Bouncing Boy 23.00 57.00 80.00
302-305 17.00 38.00 50.00
306-310 13.00 29.00 38.00
311-320 9.00 21.00 28.00
321-Intro Time Trapper 7.00 17.00 22.00
322-330 327-Intro Lore Wolf in Legion 7.00 13.00 20.00
331-340 3.00 10.40 14.00
341-Triplicate Girl becomes Duo Damsel 4.20 7.80 12.00
342-345, 347, 350, 351 3.20 5.90 9.00
346, 348, 349 3.50 6.50 10.00
352, 354-360 2.60 5.20 8.00
353-Death of Ferro Lad in Legion 4.60 8.50 13.00
361-364, 366, 368-370 2.10 3.90 6.00
365, 367, 371, 372 2.50 4.60 7.00
373, 374, 376-380 380-Last Legion in Adventure Comics
2.10 3.90 6.00
375-Intro Quantum Queen 2.50 4.60 7.00
381-389, 391-400 0.70 1.30 2.00
390, 403-(80 pg. giants G-81 & G-91) 2.10 3.90 6.00
401, 402, 404-410, 52 pg. issues 0.70 1.30 2.00
403-Giant G-81; Legion-r 1.80 3.30 5.00
411, 413, 418, 419, 36 pg. issues 0.40 0.70 1.00
412-Reprint origin & 1st app. Aminal Man from Shazam Adv. #190 1.40 2.60 4.00
414-(2nd Aminal Man from Str. Adv #184
1.10 2.00 3.00
415, 420-Aminal Man reprints 0.50 1.00 1.50
416-Giant DC-19, G.A.-r 0.40 0.80 1.20
417-Morrow Vig lanbr, Frazetta Shining Knight reprints Adv. 161
0.40 0.80 1.20
421-424 0.40 0.70 1.00
425-New look begins 0.50 1.00 1.50
426-458, 435-Mike Grell's 1st comics work 0.40 0.70 1.00
459-460, 463-465 0.40 0.70 1.00
461, 462, Death of Earth II Batman 0.40 0.80 1.20
467-Starman by Ditko Plastic Man begin end 478, 469, 470-Onyx Starman 0.50 1.00 1.50
468-490 Last comic-size iss. 0.40 0.70 1.00
491-499, 491-100 pg. digests begin 0.40 0.80 1.20
500-All Legion reprints 0.60 1.00 1.60
501-503 Golden Age reprints 0.40 0.80 1.20

ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN
No 51, Jan,1954-No 174 Aug, 1967
American Comics Group
51(3-D effect-c/story) 36.00 89.00 125.00 H
52-58 (3-D effect-c/stories) 52-E.C. swipe/Haunt Of Fear 14
31.00 79.00 110.00 H
59-3-D effect story only 20.00 50.00 70.00 H
60-Wood/esque-a by Landau 13.00 30.00 40.00 H
61-Last pre-code issue (1-2/55) 12.00 26.00 35.00 H
62-70 8.00 19.00 25.00
71-90 6.00 12.00 18.00
91-99,(95 on inside),107,116 All contain Williamson-a
8.00 19.00 25.00
92-95,97-99,101-106,108-115,117-127 105,113, 116-Wrightson pointed-c 6.00 10.00 16.00
100 7.00 13.00 20.00
128-Williamson/Krenkel/Torres-a in Forbidden Worlds #63
last 10 cent issue 6.00 10.00 16.00
129-150 5.00 9.00 14.00
151-153 153-Magic Agent app 4.00 8.00 12.00
154-Nemesis series begins (origin), ends #170
6.00 10.00 16.00
155-167, 169-174 167-Magic Agent app 4.00 8.00 12.00
168-Ditko-a(p) 5.00 9.00 14.00

ADVENTURES OF BOB HOPE, THE
No 32, Apr-May, 1955-No 109 Feb-Mar 1968
National Periodical Publications
32-40 32-1st code-approved issue 17.00 38.00 50.00
41-50 13.00 30.00 40.00
51-70 9.00 20.00 26.00
71-93, 95-105 95-1st monster issue (11/65) & 1st Super-Hip
5.00 9.00 14.00
94-Aquaman cameo 6.00 10.00 16.00
106-109-All monster-c/stories by N. Adams-c/a
9.00 20.00 26.00

ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN AMERICA
Sept, 1991-No. 4 Jan 1992 (4.95 color, mini-series)
Marvel Comics
1-Embossed-c 2.00 3.00 5.00
2-4 Austin-c/a(i) 2.00 3.00 5.00

ADVENTURES OF JERRY LEWIS, THE
(Advs. of Dean Martin & Jerry Lewis No. 1-40) (See Super DC Giants)
No. 41, Nov. 1957-No. 124, May-June, 1971
National Periodical Publications
41-60 8.00 19.00 25.00
61-80, 68, 74-Photo-c 7.00 13.00 20.00
81-91,93-96,98-100 89-Bob Hope app 4.00 8.00 12.00
92-Superman cameo 6.00 10.00 16.00
97-Batman/Robin x-over; Joker-c/story 8.00 19.00 25.00
101-104-Neal Adams-c/a 7.00 13.00 20.00
102-Beatles app 6.00 18.00 24.00
105-Superman x-over 6.00 9.00 14.00
106-111,113-116 4.00 6.00 10.00
112-Flash x-over 6.00 9.00 14.00
117-Wonder Woman x-over 3.00 5.00 8.00
118-124 2.00 3.00 5.00

ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN (Formerly Superman)
Jan, 1987-Present
DC Comics
424 0.70 1.30 2.00
425-449, 449-Invasion 0.60 1.10 1.75

Are They A Good Investment?

CBM Surveys its advisors to determine the average buying and selling (wholesale and retail) prices of 40 miscellaneous comic books (in specific grades) from a range of different publishing eras.

The relationship (ratio) between the buy and sell price is the "Buy-Back" percentage, and is considered by experienced collectors to be one of the best investment indicators.

Although there are certainly exceptions, generally speaking, the higher the Buy-Back percentage the better the investment.

Less than 33% = low yield investment.
33-66% = medium
Above 66% = high.

	Title & Issue Number	Highest Buy Price	Retail Price	Avg. Buy Back %
1	Action Comics #52 FN65	$111.90	$240.00	46.63%
2	All-Star #36 FN65	$320.50	$628.75	50.97%
3	Batman #42 FN65	$130.75	$253.75	51.53%
4	Crime Patrol #1 FN65	$48.00	$127.00	37.80%
5	Detective Comics #226 FN65	$130.71	$267.38	48.89%
6	Four Color #178(Christmas on Bear Mtn) FN65	$86.66	$197.86	43.80%
7	Green Lantern #1 FN65	$1,795.00	$3,512.50	51.10%
8	Human Torch #20 FN65	$91.00	$190.75	47.71%
9	Journey Into Mystery #1 FN65	$220.23	$420.91	52.32%
10	Jumbo Comics #1 FN65	$1,176.75	$2,435.00	48.33%
11	Marvel Mystery #9 FN65	$1,116.75	$2,168.75	51.49%
12	Adventures of Charlie Chan #1 VF82	$100.29	$211.18	47.49%
13	Amazing Spider-Man #2 VF82	$700.68	$1,403.00	49.94%
14	Atom Ant #1 VF82	$27.63	$61.22	45.13%
15	Avengers #4 VF82	$297.92	$560.00	53.20%
16	Batman #171 VF82	$106.20	$227.56	46.67%
17	Batman Annual #1 VF82	$100.80	$200.88	50.18%
18	Brave & Bold #53 VF82	$12.14	$25.88	46.91%
19	Casper #5 VF82	$29.82	$87.76	33.98%
20	Journey Into Mystery #84 VF82	$224.08	$459.96	48.72%
21	Justice League of America #1 VF82	$802.92	$1,490.63	53.86%
22	Marvel Spotlight #5 VF82	$41.92	$91.46	45.83%
23	Metal Men #1 VF82	$105.21	$216.50	48.60%
24	Mystery in Space #53 VF82	$253.80	$504.60	50.30%
25	Our Army At War #151 VF82	$37.38	$76.67	48.75%
26	Secret Origins Annual #1 (1960s DC) VF82	$77.52	$154.78	50.08%
27	Sgt. Fury #13 VF82	$41.46	$87.08	47.61%
28	Showcase #17 VF82	$374.20	$743.40	50.34%
29	Strange Tales #101 VF82	$178.96	$380.00	47.09%
30	Superman #100 VF82	$286.80	$563.20	50.92%
31	Archer & Armstrong #2 NM94	$6.90	$15.52	44.46%
32	Batman:Sword of Azrael #1 NM94	$8.35	$17.44	47.88%
33	Cerebus #1 NM94	$50.71	$126.19	40.19%
34	Harbinger #10 NM94	$4.58	$10.08	45.44%
35	Ironfist #14 NM94	$47.00	$102.60	45.81%
36	Ren & Stimpy #2 NM94	$5.94	$12.63	47.03%
37	Spawn #9 NM94	$1.00	$2.57	38.91%
38	Superman #75 (Platinum) NM94	$67.62	$186.90	36.18%
39	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turties #1 NM94	$94.09	$231.36	40.67%
40	Venom #1 (Gold) NM94	$25.21	$61.09	41.27%

CBM advisors suggest marketplace movers and shakers to keep your eye on!

PRE - 1950

1. Action #1
Still the #1 heavyweight!

2. All Winners #19
Timely's tremendous team!

3. Archie Comics #1
Pimples and freckles are back in style...and Betty & Veronica don't look bad either!

4. Batman #1
While other Batman keys are leveling off, this one is still climbing!

5. Captain America #1
The #1 patriotic hero!

6. Detective #38
It's boy wonder-ful!

7. Flash #104
The last issue is still the best issue!

8. Phantom Lady #17
Breathtakingly beautiful!

9. Silver Streak #1
One of the all-time great Golden Age books!

10. Superman #53
The first extensive origin of Superman is going up faster than a speeding bullet!

1950 - 69

1. Amaz. Adult Fant. #7-14
All Ditko and a sure-fire investment!

2. Amazing Fantasy #15
Ceiling unlimited!

3. Avengers #4
Captain America joins the Avengers!

4. Magnus #1 (GK)
Magnus is a magnet for collectors!

5. Metal Men #1
The other big Silver Age robot book!

6. Silver Surfer #4
Low distribution issue in high demand!

7. Star Trek #1 (GK)
Still headed into the stars!

8. Tales of Suspense #39
In demand like never before!

9. X-Men #1
X-traordinarily hot...still!

10. Fantastic Four #48
Silver Surfer's 1st, and one of the greatest Silver gems!

1970 - 85

1. All Star Western #11
Hex marks the spot!

2. Batman #232
Origin Dynamic Duo retold!

3. Giant Size X-Men #1
Giant Demand for this square-bound treasure!

4. House of Secrets #92
He's still big, he's still green, and he still lives in a swamp!

5. Iron Fist #15
Sink your teeth into this one!

6. Jonah Hex #1
The weirdest western hero!

7. Kamandi #1
Bronze Age Kirby rediscovered by a whole new generation!

8. Jimmy Olsen #133
The beginning of Kirby's 4th world saga!

9. X-Men #94
Starting to look like a bargain once again!

10. Amazing Spidey #136
Collectors are gobblin' it up!

1986 - Present

1. Vengenace of Bane
Batman's loss is our Bane!

2. Azrael #1 - #4
Moving up at Bat speed!

3. Magnus #12 (Valiant)
Turok of Gibraltar!

4. Ren & Stimpy #1 & #2
Let's get to whar kking!

5. Shadowman #16
1st Dr. Mirage!

6. Venom #1
High demand!

7. Spawn #1 - # 5
Todd McFarlane's masterpiece!

8. Batman #497
Paralyzing!

9. Rai #4
Low print run!

10. Bloodshot #6
The upcoming series makes Ninjak hot!

Keep Your Eye On...

CBM MarketWatch

Introduction

Welcome to the Overstreet Trading Card Price Guide, a regular feature of Overstreet's Comic Book Monthly. CBM will keep you current on all of the hottest comic and media related cards in the "Marketplace"... as well as those newly introduced! You can depend on the Overstreet Card Guide to provide accurate values for current non-sports cards. That's because the prices shown here are averages of genuine dealer retail prices, not estimates! The pricing information is compiled from data supplied by our **Board Of Advisors** (listed at the beginning of the trading card section). You will note that this compilation lists prices for card sets, singles, specialty cards, and even unopened boxes when warranted. We have not itemized every card single, per the opinions of our advisors. We concur with their view... namely that most cards are assigned an average price for all cards in that set. Where single card prices do differ (e.g. specialty cards), card prices are listed separately. Prices often vary on certain individual cards within a set. As most collectors know, this is due to the popularity of a specific character, regionally specific market pressures, and/or the pressures of simple supply and demand. Collectors should take this into consideration when pricing cards.

All suggestions and criticism are welcome and your input is important to us! If you'd like to lend a hand in making the Overstreet Card Price Guide the most reliable card price guide ever published, send your comments to: Overstreet Publications, P.O. Box 2610, Cleveland, TN 37320 or FAX us at (615) 479-8156.

The whole idea of collecting cards is, first and foremost, to have FUN! Card collecting is, after all, a hobby. The problems start when new collectors forget this most basic principle.

When an attempt is made to turn the hobby into a "Get-rich-quick" scheme, financial "disaster" is always close behind. People who get into card collecting exclusively for monetary reasons almost always loose in the long run.

Non-sport cards have been around for a long time, longer even than comic books or comic strips. In fact, cards were issued as far back as the Civil War era. For the most part, this Price Guide deals with non-sports cards from the mid 1960s to the present. This is what most collectors are primarily interested in. Overstreet Publications projects that if interest in new cards continues to increase at present rates, demand for older pre 1960s cards will escalate as well. With each issue of Overstreet's CBM, new information and prices will be added. If you have trading card data and information, please send it to us. Card Data, Overstreet Publications, P. O. Box 2610, Cleveland, TN 37320 (or FAX us at (615) 479-8156. All new data and corrections to existing data is much appreciated!

HOW DO I START COLLECTING CARDS?

(1) First, collect cards that you enjoy!

(2) Set a budget for yourself and keep within that budget. The wonderful thing about collecting trading cards is there are so many varieties to choose from. There have been so many different card sets published over the past thirty years that is is relatively easy to find some that you like and fits into your budget.

WHERE CAN I GET CARDS?

There are several different places to acquire non-sports cards:

(1) Comic book and Sports card retailers. In most cases, they carry many of the recently released non-sports cards.

(2) Local swap meets and flea markets.

(3) Many cities hold monthly sports card and non-sports card shows and conventions.

(4) Mail order dealers.

Because the overhead costs associated with selling at a card show or swap meet are lower than at a regular retail store, a collector may find some material at lower prices. Another factor to consider is the element of competition. Dealers who set up at swap meets and card conventions often experience greater competition than shops, and therefore sometimes offer lower prices in order to more successfully compete.

The advantage of shopping at a retail store is that they usually have a better assortment of non-sports cards sets and chase cards. Many retail stores will also hold cards or put them on a lay-away plan for regular customers. These services are less likely to be offered by swap meet or card show dealers. Not only that, but shops have greater accessibility because of regular hours.

Usually collectors take advantage of both sources.

HOW DO I BUY, SELL, & TRADE CARDS?

Buying - Buying cards is not an exact science. Prices can vary from dealer to dealer. The best thing to do is to shop around until you find a dealer that you are comfortable with and can trust.

Never be afraid to bargain on the price of a card or set of cards. The worst thing that can happen is that the dealer will say no. In many cases, a dealer may make a counter offer which is lower than their original asking price.

This principle applies to both retail stores as well as convention dealers.

It is important to remember though, that the retail stores have more bills to pay (higher overhead), so don't be disappointed if you are not always successful with your offer. If you don't feel comfortable with a price, just say "thanks" and try another location.

Trading - Trading non-sports cards with other collectors can be as fun as trading sports cards. When trading, it's seems to work well to trade "retail for retail". In other words, if you have a set of cards worth twenty dollars in the Overstreet Price Guide, trade for cards worth the same amount. Other factors can come into play that can change or otherwise affect this rule, but, for the most part, it's a good way to develop your trading skills.

Trading cards with a dealer can be a little more complicated. Usually, dealers will trade for about fifty to sixty percent of the value of the card or set of cards. For example, if a card set is retailing for ten dollars, the dealer may offer a trade value of five or six dollars for that set. Think about your deal ahead of time and remember your right to say no if you don't like the deal, just the way dealers have a right to say no when they don't like a trade that's being offered. And don't forget the option of making a counter offer. Often the price that is finally agreed to is somewhere inbetween the your ideal price and the dealer's ideal price!

Selling - The best way to sell cards is by attending card conventions as a dealer. If selling at a card convention is not your cup of tea then you can sell cards to a dealer. Selling cards to dealers will get you from twenty to fifty percent of the card or card sets value. That twenty dollar card set is worth ten to a dealer TOPS. It's always best to try and trade instead of out right sell a card. You will get more value out of the cards that way.

HOW DO I PROTECT & STORE MY CARDS!

Like comic books, it is important to store cards in a protective environment. Cards can be damaged by the same things that can damage comic books. With this in mind, remember to store your cards in a cool dry place.

Cards can fade and turn yellow or brown if exposed to sunlight and certain types of fluorescent lights. Store cards out of the light.

To keep cards from bending or getting rounded corners, place them into plastic, non-acid, "nine-card-sheets". 100, 200, 500, and 1000 count cardboard boxes or plastic cases are also a good way to store large quantities of cards and are less expensive than plastic sheets. These are available at any sports card shop.

THE "CHASE" IS ON!

Up until recently, the non-sports card industry has been fairly "low profile". In general, over the past thirty years, the subject matter for non-sports and entertainment cards has been primarily based upon the television and movie industry. These cards featured actual scenes from the TV show or movie. The card buyer had only one thing to collect, so card collecting wasn't very difficult.

In the 1970s, an added bonus was added to each pack of cards; a sticker. This marketing strategy was designed to motivate the unsuspecting card buyer to purchase more packs, because now there are two sets that need completing; complete a set of cards and complete a set of stickers. This wasn't difficult because every pack of cards had at least one sticker. Eventually the card buyer would get enough cards to complete the set.

This continued until Impel and Upper Deck did something to revolutionize the non-sports industry. They included, for the first time, a special card found only in a few of the packs. The card was a hologram and is now called the "chase" card. These "chase" cards were different, special, *and* harder to get. Their inclusion into selected packs of cards very successfully inspired card buyers to veritable purchasing frenzies.

Because these chase cards were availabele in such low numbers, the prices of the cards escalated to much higher values than ordinary cards... much higher!

No longer did the average card buyer purchase a pack to put a set together. Instead they purchased packs to try and find the Chase card. In fact, making sets of cards became a byproduct of card acquisition while trying to get all the Chase cards became a primary collecting goal.

GRADING AND PRICING CARDS

Grading and pricing cards is much like grading and pricing comic books Some elements of value are:

(1) Condition - The higher the better.

(2) Subject Matter - The more popular the more in demand and the more in demand the higher the value.

(3) Quantity Printed - Limited print runs means less cards to go around.

(4) Age - Older cards are generally harder to find and therefore more valuabel.

The condition of a card is among the most important factor in determining the price, but it is in no way absolute. For example, a card in a lower grade that is popular and hard to find can, and many times will, command a higher price than what is listed in a price guide, whereas, a mint set of an unpopular card could be worth less than the price listed. It is up to you, as the collector, to determine the price you are willing to pay for a given card or set.

Remember that grading is not an exact science and the grading scale below should be used as a starting point. Older cards prior to 1970 can be adjusted upwards 5%-10% if they are in excellent condition or higher.

Grades

Mint (MT) - A card with no defects whatsoever. All corners are sharp, the color is vibrant with the original gloss. No printing defects such as off centering o color should be visible. Card should be sharp and in focus. 100%

Near Mint (NM) - A card with any one of the following minor flaws: a corner with slight wear, slightly off centered. No color loss or yellowing should be visible. Can have a very minor focus imperfection. 75%-95%

Excellent (EX) - A card with any two of the following minor flaws. slight wear on a corner, slight off centering, the original gloss is diminished, very slight focus imperfection. 50%-75%.

Very Good (VG) - A card in this condition may have gloss loss, some yellowing of the borders may be visible, rounding at the corners, pictures can be slightly off focus. 20%-50%

Good (GD) - A card in this condition can have scuffing at the corners and on the face, boarders can be uneven and yellowing of the boarders is apparent, glossiness is no longer noticeable. 10%-20%

Fair (FR), Poor (PR) - Cards in this condition are usually used for fillers until a better condition card can be found. These cards can have brown and dirty boarders, scuffing, well rounded off corners, water stains, writing and some may even have pieces missing. 2%-10%

Editor's Note: CBM would like to give a special thanks to ***George Borow*** *for writing initial introduction to this section. George is a nationally recognized collector of non-sports trading cards and was the first Overstreet Trading Card Advisor.*

MARKET REPORTS

ALAN JONES
Big Al's Hobby Shop
319 West Drive
White House, TN 37188
(615) 672-2209

A great big howdy to all you card misers out there. The Marvel IV cards have done extremely well and show no signs of slowing down. The special Spider-Man/Venom card is magnificent, and in short supply. There is only one card in every 5 boxes.

The Plasm O cards look great and are selling well. The Plasm O binder is sharp and is in short supply at this time.

The Jurassic Park Gold Cards just arrived they are impressive and should sell well with the success of the movie helping them along.

Everyone here is awaiting the Star Trek Masterpiece Cards. They should be a big hit.

The Star Wars Cards have been a moderate success. They have spawned (no pun intended) interest in other Star Wars items.

I don't know what has happened but the Wolverine Cards have begun to sell like hot cakes. I can't seem to keep enough in stock.

That's is for now, I gotta go open some Plasm O packs.

SPARKS
Bruce's Comics
2432 Cerrillos Road
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 474-0494

Hello from the land of enchantment, Santa Fe, New Mexico!

Awhile back we received an industry Market Report from one of our distributors. It focused on the convention market and in particular on the impact sports cards dealers were having on sales. It appears that they were selling new titles (i.e. Valiant) at 50% off cover and the comic dealers were hopping mad!!

Hmmm... I thought: Not too long ago "cards" were strictly the purview of sports dealers and enthusiasts, and a select sub-group of movie, TV, and 60's comic card collectors. Well, boy-howdy,

didn't 1990's *Marvel Universe Series #1* sure change all that? And wasn't it a definite shot in the arm for the industry as a whole? Well the wheel has turned again! Sports card dealers have begun to deal in both comic cards and comic books, and the benefactor will be new card buyers and comic collectors alike! What a time of great opportunities, eh?

By the way, the folks at Marvel would do well to recall true "Special Cards", like unto those of M.U. Series #1 & 2, are the name of the game. "Nuff Said".

BRIAN & CAROL MORRIS
P O Box 3792
Champaign, IL 61826-3792
(217) 398-0155

As we wait for the flood of comic related (Defiant, Valiant, Milestone, et al) trading cards, it's not like we don't have enough product to fill our tables, right? Here's the view from the road:

All three incarnations of the *Marvel Universe* are selling briskly. It seems like there's never a weekend when somebody discovers their favorite character in a series they didn't know existed, or someone who's looking at the cards for the very first time. The Skybox *X-Men* sell well, especially the Magneto, Storm and Cable holograms. Unfortunately, the Wolverine hologram (one of the truer three-dimensional images in the card world) is a little pricey for most of our younger collectors.

(At this point, we would point out that many collectors seem to think the Jim Lee *X-Men* series was the first. In fact, the initial set of mutant cards was done - poorly, in our opinion - by Comic Images, not Skybox. The Jim Lee set was just the first good set of X-Men trading cards!)

The *DC Cosmic Cards* set's sales have slowed, almost tot he point of stopping. Impel's dumping their excess stock in the marketplace has hurt most of our chances of selling our leftovers to the public. And most of us paid full price for ours, eh? The new *DC Cosmic Teams* set gets a little more interest from the fans, especially the lovely stereo holograms (our favorites being Jerry Ordway's Captain Marvel and the Eaton/DeMulder Swamp Thing). Many collectors just go for the subsets, rather than for the entire run of common cards.

The Great Bird of the Galaxy himself would be pleased with how consistently the *Star Trek Inaugural* and *Star Trek: The Next Generation* series would sell. While sales are only now starting to taper off (perhaps in anticipation of the new *ST:TNG* and *Portrait* series), they still have earned themselves a place at our sales table. Interest in the *Next Generation* language cards still exceeds that shown in the various holograms, interestingly enough.

The Topps' *Batman: The Animated Series* sell with great difficulty. Given the popularity of the program and the fine work on the cards, we are at a loss to justify the sluggish sales. *Aladdin* and the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles III* are down, although new collectors still enjoy buying the packs.

For all of the hoopla surrounding *Jurassic Park*, the cards have done little for us. One word of warning about *JP*: between two boxes, we still didn't get a complete set of common cards! Lousy distribution of the cards - for cryin' out loud, you oughta get at least one complete set per box, at least! - hurt our box sales for *Marvel Universe III* and the *Doomsday* cards. We're not optimistic about *Jurassic Park*. We'd be happy to let you know if we're wrong!

We would be delighted to report on the first weekend's sales on *Marvel Universe IV* and the new *Star Wars* cards, but a lot more dealers are keeping their boxes behind the counter and waiting for the prices to rise over the computer nets. This makes it hard for us to buy, even at non-wholesale rates, replacements for our initially-low orders (no one ever went broke running out of something, capeesh?) and still be able to sell our wares to our customers at affordable prices. And what really burns us is that most of the "speculeeches" that we hear about don't even directly subscribe to the computer services, but people!

Thank goodness the rest of the hobby is still profitable for us. Nothing is quite so rewarding as the look on a young collector's face when he buys the final card that completes his collection. That is one of the reasons we do this, right? You betcha!

Until next month, take care and be good!

GEORGE BOROW
Anything But Sports
6937 El Cajon Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92115
(619) 698-1177

Hello again! Well, just as suspected, the *Star Wars* cards are hot! I can't keep the card sets or the special foil cards in stock. The sets are already selling for $25 and the chase cards around $15. *Marvel Universe IV* just came out at this writing and is also hot! The nine foil stamped chase cards are selling well and the 3-d Hologram of Spider-Man vs. Venom is amazing. (It sold for $60 on the first day it was displayed) The card set is large, 180 cards, so making a set from a box may be difficult. Demand for singles will be high. The card sets of *Sexy Robots*, by comic images, is in high demand. Sets of the cards move as fast as I can make them. the six chromium cards are well done also. This set because of some nudity is definitely only for adults. Once again, the *Olivia* chrome cards are still hot! The *Betty Page* chrome cards sell for $30 each and I expect it to go even higher. That's all for now!

TRADING CARD BOARD OF SPECIAL ADVISORS

GEORGE M. BOROW
Anything But Sports
6937 El Cajon
San Diego, CA 92115
(619) 698-1177

MICHAEL BOLIN
Rookies Sports Cards and Comics
3120 Taylor Boulevard
Louisville, KY 40215
(502) 363-2227

ALAN JONES
Big Al's Hobby Shop
319 West Drive
White House, TN 37188
(615) 672-2209

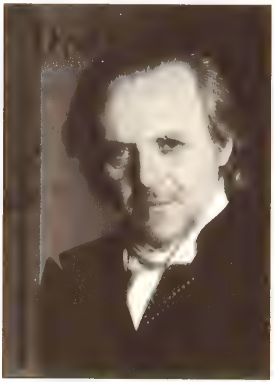
DANNY JONES
The Hobby Shop
5514 New Cut Road
Louisville, KY 40214
(502) 368-7232

KEN STOUT/CHRIS FOXX
The Sports Page
437 Spring Street
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
(812) 288-6160

DR. JOE DUNGAN
Now and Then Collectibles
1633 Babcock, Suite 212
San Antonio, TX 78229

Batman Returns #1, © DC

Captain America's 50th Anniversary, © Marvel



Dracula #4, © Columbia Pictures

Marvel Universe Series 1 Hologram MH4, © MEG

CBM August Convention Listings

& CARDS & COLLECTIBLES. Santa Maria Inn, 801 S. Broadway. August 29, 10 to 5. Admission: $2. Contact: John (805) 925-6346.

Montreal, Quebec, Canada, **COMIQUE MANIA.** Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Montreal, 420 Sherbrooke Quest/Downtown. August 29, 10 to 5. Admission: $4 (Canadian funds). Contact: Georges Hallak (514) 337-8931.

Cleveland, OH, **COMICS AND NON-SPORTS CARD CONVENTION.** Holiday Inn, I271 and Wilson Mills Road, Mayfield Heights. August 29, 10 to 4. Admission: $2. Contact: Mr. Cards-N-Comics, Inc. (216) 461-1191.

Fort Wayne, IN, **LEGACY COMIC SHOWS.** Holiday Inn, 3330 W. Coliseum Blvd. August 29, 10 to 4. Admission: $1. Contact: Jeff Koch (219) 327-3034.

Woodbridge, NJ, **REALITY CONVENTIONS.** Sheraton, 515 Rte 1 South. August 29. Contact: Reality Conventions, P O Box 4218, Hagerstown, MD 21740 (301) 791-8159.

Charlotte, NC, **REALITY CONVENTIONS.** Ramada Central, I-77 exit 7 at 515 Clanton Rd. August 29. Contact: Reality Conventions, P O Box 4218, Hagerstown, MD 21740 (301) 791-8159.

Columbus, OH, **REALITY CONVENTIONS.** Sheraton, 2124 South Hamilton Rd. August 29. Contact: Reality Conventions, P O Box 4218, Hagerstown, MD 21740 (301) 791-8159.

Nashville, TN, **REALITY CONVENTIONS.** Rodeway Inn, 797 Briley Pkwy. August 29. Contact: Reality Conventions, P O Box 4218, Hagerstown, MD 21740 (301) 791-8159.

Ft. Myers, FL, **COMIC BOOK SHOW.** Ramada (Airport) Hotel, 12635 Cleveland Ave. August 29, 9 to 5. Admission: Free. Contact: Gail Palmer, 1417 SE 23 Street, Cape Coral, FL 33990 (813) 772-0254 or Marge Honkanen, 511 SE 33 Street, Cape Coral, FL 33904 (813) 574-7731.

San Francisco, CA, **SAN FRANCIS CON #6** Holiday Inn - Golden Gateway, 1500 Van Ness Ave. August 29, 10 to 4. Admission: $3, under 7 free. Contact: Al Jang, 3145 Geary Blvd. #270, San Francisco, CA 94118 (415) 386-9036.

London, Ontario, Canada, **COMIC AND SPORT CARD SHOW.** Ramada Inn, 817 Exter Ro/Wellington. August 29, 10 to 4. Contact: George Casson Promotions, 460 Highland Ave, Apt 703, London, Ontario, Canada N6C 5E2.

Livonia, MI, **X-TRAVA CON COMIC BOOK SHOW.** Knights of Columbus Hall, 19801 Farmington Rd., between 7 Mile and 8 Mile Rd. August 29, 10 to 4. Admission: $1.50. Contact: Michael Goldman, Suite 231, 19785 W. 12 Mile Rd, Southfield, MI 48076 (313) 350-2633.

Linden, NJ, **DJL'S 1993 CARD, COMICS, & COLLECTIBLES SHOW.** Anshe Chesed, St. George Ave. at Orchard Terrace. August 29, 10 to 4:30. Contact: (908) 925-8220.

Durham, NC, **CARDBOARD HERO'S COMICS & CARD SHOW.** Holiday Inn-West, 3460 Hillsborough Rd. August 29, 9 to 4. Admission: $1.50, under 6 free. Contact: Buddy or Beverly Carter, P O Box 34681, Richmond, VA 23234 (804) 231-1969.

Clinton, NJ, **COMIC BOOKS & SPORT CARD JUBILEE.** Holiday Inn, Rt. 173, exit 15 off Rt. 78. August 29, 10 to 4. Admission: Free. Contact: Ken Wisnefski (908) 479-6603.

Modesto, CA, **BASEBALL CARD & COMIC SHOW.** Palm Plaza in McHenry Village, 1700 McHenry Ave. August 29, 10 to 4. Admission: $2, 10 and under free. Contact: Mike Blalock, 1125 Sheirdan Wy, Stockton, CA 95207 (209) 948-0976 or (209) 474-7362.

DARK ALLEY COMICS

"Serving Comic Fandom around the globe."

Trying to locate that back issue? Give us a call or write for our FREE CATALOG.

(LOCATED INSIDE BURBANK COIN & SPORTCARDS)

3208 W. MAGNOLIA BLVD.
BURBANK, CA 91505
(818) 843-2600

PHILIP M. LEVINE AND SONS RARE AND ESOTERIC BOOKS
P.O. Box 346, Dept. PO, Three Bridges, NJ 08887
Phone (908) 788-0532
FAX (908) 788-1026
SEND US ALL OF YOUR PRE-1975 COMIC BOOKS TODAY
We will make you an immediate cash offer. If we don't buy your books, we will pay the postage both ways. We are always buying and selling cartoons, giveaways, premiums, Big Little Books, old paperbacks, Seduction of the Innocent and related censorship material, radio premiums, early crime magazines, Underground Age comics, antediluvian comics and related material, pulps, Catechetical Guild comics and related material, Golden Age comics, Silver Age comics, old toys and gum cards. We have the largest inventory of old "TV Guides" in North America. Send us your name and address today to get on our mailing list.
YOU CAN COME AND SEE US AT ALL NEW YORK AREA COLLECTIBLE SHOWS AND ALL WEX-REX SHOWS, CHICAGO COMIC CON, ALLENTOWN, PA PAPER FAIR AND SAN DIEGO COMIC CON.
Don't forget to send us your books. We have been buying and selling comic books for 35 years.
SEND US YOUR WANT LIST TODAY!
BUYING BETTER PAGE STUFF. PLEASE SEND WHAT YOU HAVE TODAY
Neil

GIVEAWAYGIMMICK VARIATIONS

My Dad collects comics, and so do I. We also collect cards. One day my Dad and I were in the comics room in our house, and I was looking at some of my Dad's cards. My dad gave me the Spawn Overstreet GiveAway Gimmick cards, and I saw that the foil on one was Silver and one was Gold. How many different colors are there?

Zack Berk (age 7), Connecticut

Our research department tells me that there were nine different foil colors, arbitrarily based on what the printer had on hand at the time. The colors were gold, silver, red, green, dark Blue, light blue, purple, orange, and a striped combo. I had originally asked for 120,000 different colors so I could have satirically suggested that someone "collect them all". Seriously though, we decided to label that first and all future free premiums as "GiveAwayGimmicks" to remind collectors that the reason you by a price guide is because you have confidence in the accuracy of the prices. I hope you view our first card offer with the whimsy in which it was intended. Thanks for writing Zack, and thanks for reading Overstreet.

MILLIE GIFT

As always, I thoroughly enjoyed the latest issue of CBM (#3), and think the new format is wonderful. While reading through the issue from cover to cover, I spotted a letter from Jeff Ellison that I thought I may be able to help with. In his letter, Jeff states that he's "been secretly searching for a Millie The Model Annual #1 for over five years". Well," I thought, "I know I have a copy I wouldn't mind parting with, and he obviously would enjoy it much more than I do, so why not send it to CBM to forward on complimentary to Jeff?" So that's what I'm doing!

I believe that comic collecting should be absolutely entertaining, and good-will certainly helps to spread the cheer. So, please pass this copy, (sorry it's not mint!), on to Mr. Ellison "compliments of CBM". And best of luck with CBM, it is really very entertaining! And isn't that what it's all about!

Michael J. Friedlander, Pennsylvania

I'll pass it along to Jeff compliments of you! The generosity of collectors never fails to amaze me... Yer wunna da gud uns, Mike! Oh... and Jeff, give me a call and we can make arrangements to get this nifty book to you. Whew, ain't this hobby grand?!!

CONNELL COMMENTS

First let me join the many Overstreet readers in congratulating you on your new format. I've been reading and enjoying your publication since I began collecting in 1978, and I can honestly say that it keeps getting better every year. I've got a few bits of information and opinion to share with other CBM readers, so here it goes.

1) Even though the original Human Torch hasn't played as big a role in the Silver Age Marvel universe as Captain America and the Sub-Mariner, Fantastic Four Annual #4 still seems to be a steal at $45, considering it's the first Silver Age appearance & origin of the Golden Age Torch, plus it has a "fantastic" Torch vs. Torch battle.

2) Strange Tales #107 (Apr 63) is the first Sub-Mariner cross-over outside the Fantastic Four, and his overall fourth appearance (after F.F. #'s, 4, 6, & 9).

3) With all of the attention focused on the Infinity gems over the last couple of years, I think it's worth noting that they made their first appearance in Marvel Premiere #1, when Adam Warlock received his soul gem from the High Evolutionary.

Well, that's all for now. Thanks for your time, and good luck with the new CBM.

Ray Connell, Michigan

Right on all counts, Ray. Thanks for some really excellent info. I, too, have always felt that the Torch vs. Torch battle in FF annual #4 made it a major sleeper. As for Marvel Premiere #1, your secret has been out for some time, judging from what dealers from all over North America tell me.

THIRTY SOMETHING

I think the union of "Overstreet's Price Guide" and the "Comic Book Marketplace" is a great idea and much needed! Speaking for myself and my "Thirty Something" friends, it's nice to see a monthly guide with articles on both current & Silver/Golden Age books!

Two corrections I'd like to add to the price guide section: The re-Intro. of Ant-Man happened in Avengers #93 (Nov 1971), and not Marvel Feature #4 (Jul 1972). Also, Phantom Stranger #4 (Nov 1969) is the first "New Look" stranger. The stranger in issue #3 is still the 1950's character, and by issue #5 it's "Mr. 1970's".

Gary Hackenburg, North Carolina

Point well taken! Nice to hear from you again, Gary, and thanks for the data. Speaking of Golden Age & Silver Age articles, have you heard about our new quarterly publication, Overstreet's ADVANCED COLLECTOR? We're all pretty excited about it. Not only does the first issue have an incredible assortment of articles

and features that will truly "blow you away", but it also contains the very first Golden Age price update in Overstreet history! Any comic not listed in our Monthly that has had a change in value since the Annual Overstreet Price Guide was published, will be listed in a special Price Guide Section in the ADVANCED COLLECTOR. I'm hoping all Golden Age and Silver Age Collectors will help me get the word out on this one. So tell your ma, tell your pa, tell your collector friends in Arkansas... Tell 'everyone to ask their local shop for a copy of Overstreet's Advanced Collector #1 (or you can even subscribe!) Hurry though, or I may have to subject everyone to another long winded commercial, thinly disguised as a response to a letter!

VALIANT TIDBIT

Would like to share a little tidbit with everybody. As I've bought all the Valiant books since they started, (I bought my Harbinger #1 for cover) I think my opinion is fairly valid. So here we go.

X-O Manowar #4 is a very early cameo of Shadowman, but it is not his first appearance. Here is a little data for ya'. Shadowman #1 is dated May '92 and so is X-O Manowar #4, however, if you read the book (what a wild concept, huh?) you'll see that Shadowman #1 has an ad in the back for Solar #9, and X-O #4 has an ad for Solar #10. Now, I suppose people might say that the events that occurred in X-O #4 was the same night that Jack Boniface was bitten by the spider alien, but I don't think that qualifies as Shadowman's 1st appearance because he wasn't Shadowman until after he was bitten.

All you young speculators better be careful about how much you spend on X-O #4, I don't think the market's going to hold on this book at these crazy prices I've seen at shows (anywhere from $10-$25).

Well that about seems to cover what I was trying say. So until Marvel prints a talking comic book, Make Mine Overstreet.

Skip Mushrush, Texas

Harbinger #1 for cover price? Lucky guy!

SWAMP THING'S SECOND?

Is Phantom Stranger #14 the second appearance of the swamp-thing, inside cover date of House of Secrets #92 is June-July 1971 inside cover date of Phantom Stranger #14 July-August 1971? I think at least it's a very close second appearance.

Darryl Jones, Gwynedd, Whales, United Kingdom

If memory serves me, I'm pretty sure it is, but maybe some enterprising DC collector out there can help us nail this one down. Thanks for reading CBM all the way over there in the United Kingdom.

TRADING CARD COMIC BOOKS

As both a comic book collector and non-sport gum card collector, I recently acquired a rare item that is related to both fields. What I noticed about the item is that it does not appear in your 22nd edition of the Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide, even though the item is actually more closely related to comics than to gum cards. In 1967, Topps test issued a set of comics titled Krazy Little Comics. The set consists of 16 comics measuring 2 1/2" X 3 1/2". Each book contains eight pages (counting covers) which spoofs a comic book hero.

According to the fourth edition (1992) of The Sport Americana Price Guide to the Non-Sports Cards, the set is worth approximately $190 in mint condition, and $140 in excellent condition. Each comic is worth about $10/$7.50.

In non-sport card collecting, a set is usually worth more than the sum of the individual items due to the increased difficulty in completing sets. Below is a listing of the names of the 16 comics:

1-The Amusing Spidey Guy (Spider-Man), 2-Badman (Batman), 3-The Bantam (the Phantom), 4-Blunder Woman (Wonder Woman), 5-Captive American (Capt. America), 6-Fantastic Fear (Fantastic Four), 7-The Flush (Flash), 8-The Incredible Hunk (Hulk), 9-Jester's League of America (JLA), 10-The Lone Rancher (Lone Ranger), 11-Mandrain the Magician (Mandrake), 12-The Meekly Thaw (Mighty Thor), 13-Prince Violet (Prince Valiant), 14-Stuporman (Superman), 15-Sub-Marine Man (Sub-Mariner), and 16-Tarsam (Tarzan).

Thanks again for producing a product that simply gets better every year.

Dave Esposito, Ohio

I had seen the eleven "mini" comics satirizing Marvel and DC characters a number of times before, but I was unaware of the five King Features characters you mention. Thanks Dave for sharing your knowledge with fandom. This is a collectible that is sure to be of interest to hobbyists from several different collecting fields, and I feel has great potential.

LIBRARY COPY

I am enjoying the new format of Overstreet CBM. I find your guide to be one of the most useful. I have a couple of questions, and I'd appreciate your help. The first concerns preservation and long term storage. Are the Ultra Pro comic sleeves and Myguards as safe as Mylar?

The second concerns the source of some comics I recently purchased. I bought 5 issues of the Gold Key Magnus Robot Fighter series. They were all in fine condition because of a few minor stress marks on the spine, the issue number written in pen beneath the month, and all issues were stamped "Library Copy". All have white pages and bright colors inside and out. They appear to have hardly been touched. Are these possible File Copies from Gold Key? Thanks for your help.

Chris Calloway, Delaware

The products you mention are manufactured by reputable companies, but I've never personally used them, so I'm unable to give you an informed opinion. I've been using Mylar sleeves to protect my collection

since they were first made available over a decade ago. In my opinion, they are an excellent (albeit a bit expensive) comic book preservation tool.

As for your books stamped "Library Copy", one never knows whose library the stamp refers too. Not only that, but anyone can get a stamp made. Without knowledge of the provenance (place of origin and/or lineage of ownership), it very difficult to identify file copies with absolute certainty.

But... given the caveat above, I have seen several high grade Gold Key books stamped as you describe over the years, and they do appear authentic to me (I even have a few in my collection). Maybe other readers have some additional info on Gold Key Library Copies. Thanks for writing Chris.

ATTIC TREASURES

I'm writing to ask a question about the polybagged four packs of comics put out by Attic Treasures. The retail value of this 4 pack in plastic is just a mere $1.99. Though in my travels across the states of Montana, Idaho, and Washington, I have found them here and there. I have bought about 100 packs, finding such comic books as, Uncanny X-Men #266 (Aug 1990), $25.00; Marvel Comics Presents #57 (1990), $6; Crisis on Infinite Earths #12 (Mar 1986), $5, to name just a few examples. My question is, are they true treasures? Thanks.

Ben Avery, Montana

This "pack of comics" idea is being done in many different regions of the country by several different large distributors. The way it works is this: A distributor purchases hundreds of thousands of left over and remaindered comics for as little as 10¢ each, and then places them in packages for bargain prices. They are then packaged, placed in convenience stores, gas station mini-markets, and the like, and marketed as collectibles.

I think your finds are a treasure in the sense that you get to buy and read brand new comics for less than cover price. The implication for collectors is to the knowledge of just how many new books are actually out there, and to keep this in mind when they invest.

BRITISH COMICS

I enjoyed talking to you Gary about the British Comic Books. This is an area of collecting that fascinates me, unfortunately in the city I live in (Penticton B.C. population around 28,000), I seem to be the only one who orders any British Comics!

Every one else, of course, it seems are only interested in the latest DC/Marvel/Valiant/Dark Horse or Image titles. The comics that I have been ordering are mostly Fleetway-Quality comics, like Judge Dredd and Dredd Rules. I have really been enjoying these comics as they are so different from the usual DC/Marvel offering! And I love Simon Bisley's art, who is often featured in them.

I am 33 years old and have been collecting comics for many years now, but nothing has come along for a long time now to excite me as much as the British Comics... As I mentioned before, in my small town it is not very easy to meet other comic collectors, so I was wondering if you would be able to suggest a good Comic Collectors Fan Club that I could join to meet other collectors interested in U.K. Comics, etc.

Thank you very much for all your help.

Wayne D. Smith, Canada

I, regrettably, am not aware of any British Comics fan clubs in North America. Maybe one of our readers will come to the rescue.

INTERVIEW INSIGHTS

I wanted to write and tell the Overstreet gang how much I enjoyed the Gil Kane Close Up in CBM #3. I was astounded to learn he entered the comic biz so early. Even though I have been a fan of his work since the late 60s, I never new he did Golden Age stuff. What an important historical figure he is! That kind of comprehensive interview is exactly the kind of thing I want to read in a comics mag. Keep up the good work. A loyal Overstreet reader...

Bill Anderson, Oklahoma

I, too, am a long time Gil Kane fan and admirer. What a thrill it was to speak with him personally. One of my most treasured pieces is my original art page from Green Lantern #8 by Kane. Wowzers, what a genius he is.

MORE MYLAR QUESTIONS

First, let me say how much I like CBM. It is a treasure trove of info. I am immediately ordering a subscription.

Second, I must thank my nephews, Daniel and Donald, for reviving the old comic collector that was buried under a career. I own several hundred Marvel, DC, and various titles from the early sixties to the early seventies. Within the last year, my collection has almost doubled in size.

I'm really glad I switched from my old polybags to Mylar. I hope 10 years in plastic did no harm to them, which brings me to this question: I'm now using the "patented" Carter double system, except I'm using my old polybags over the Mylars. I did not want to trash 500 to 600 bags. Is this safe?

I'm only doing a few now until I find out about the safety of my comics. Once again, your book is truly wonderful.

Arnie Bush, Tennessee

They are safe for the short term (a year or two). But I recommend eventually switching to a 100% Mylar system. Thanks for subscribing. Your support means a lot to us.

CONNELL COMMENTS II

I'm writing in regard to the recent annual Overstreet Price Guide. It's been revised to list Fantastic Four #25 (Apr 1964) as the first Avengers cross-over issue with a two panel cameo. If this brief appearance qualifies as a cross-over, then I'd like to draw your attention to Tales of Suspense #49 (Jan 1964).

During the course of the story, Cyclops attempts to contact the Avengers in order to get their assistance in stopping the Angel, who has temporarily taken leave of his senses. One panel shows the Avengers (the Hulk, Thor, Giant-Man, the Wasp, and Iron Man), followed by a single panel each of Bruce Banner, Don Blake, Henry Pym with Janet Van Dyne, and Tony Stark. So, not only should TOS #49 be noteworthy because of the first X-Men cross-over, and the first Tales of the Watcher backup feature, and it's one of only three issues (47-49) drawn by Steve Ditko (Whew!), but I feel that it should also be listed as the first Avengers cross-over appearance. What do you think?

Ray Connell, Michigan

I think you've got something! I'll pass your suggestion along to the research department. Whew is right, the Ditko work you mention is incredible!!!!

BATMAN #59

I've recently learned from Mark Wilson of "World's Finest Comics and Collectibles" that a monthly Golden Age update from Overstreet will soon be available. This has been a long time coming for the hobby, and will certainly help to put Golden Age comics back into the limelight where they belong! I'm looking forward to the first issue!

Now on to some new data... With the current popularity of Spider-Man 2099, Doom 2099, Robin 3000, etc., I thought it important to identify the first future Batman. The first future Batman, Robin, and Joker appear in the pages of Batman #59 in the year 2050. This issue also boasts a Joker appearance (!) as well as being the first appearance of Deadshot! A key issue if the 3000 series continues...

Also, is Picture Stories From the Bible, New Testament Edition #1 from DC comics (1944) the first comic book appearance of Jesus Christ? P.S. My vote for Golden Age cover of the month goes to Nancy and Sluggo #16, 1949. Fantastic!

John Mlachnik, Minnesota

Batman #59 is an absolutely great book! And relatively unknown to most collectors to boot. Picture Stories 1944 is certainly the first DC appearance of Jesus, but I can't say with surety for all comics. As always John, you come up the most interesting questions/data. I'm getting to the point where a day without a Mlachnik letter is like a day without sunshine! Keep 'em coming John, keep 'em coming!

BLACK KNIGHT

First off, I must compliment you for being the authority in comic book price guides, and the other departments of the book are both intriguing and informative.

I would like to share some information with you. I believe that Tales of Suspense #73 could be called the death of the 2nd Black Knight (Nathan Garrett). In TOS #73, Iron Man is battling the Black Knight at a high altitude upon the Black Knight's winged steed. The Black Knight gets mortally wounded, and at the end of TOS #73 he is being carried away on a stretcher. The story is briefly recapped in the Black Knight mini-series #1, and after the battle it said that he died begging his nephew, Dan Whitman (current Black Knight), to right his wrongs and become the Black Knight. TOS #74 does not pick up on anything concerning the Black Knight, so I would consider TOS #73 Nathan Garrett's death issue, or the closest possible thing to it. I believe all TOS, and really any Silver Age books are treasures, but can't fully enjoy your comic books unless you read them. Thanks for your time, and keep up the good work!

So until you polybag the Overstreet CBM with Ren and Stimpy's Toenail Clippings... Make Mine The Overstreet CBM!!!

Christian Hunt, North Carolina

Aw gee Christian, you gave away our next GiveAwayGimmick.

POLYBAG CONTROVERSY

I would like to thank you for the information about "polybag mint", and the issue of whether or not to open the sealed polybag to view the comic within.

Yet a great amount of controversy remains. To prove this, I recently went to a comic book show to check out the prices and selection of back issues when I overheard at one table, an argument between a young man and a dealer concerning the Death of Superman #75 polybag issue. It seems the young man wanted to look at the comic (which was still sealed in the polybag), to insure its mint quality that the dealer guaranteed. The price was high and the young man insisted he wanted to open the bag to make sure. Yet the dealer insisted otherwise, stating that if he opened the bag that the young man would indeed be the proud owner of the comic whether it was mint or not. This went on till the dealer told the young man to shop elsewhere.

Considering the implications of this event, who is correct? Was it right for the young man to demand to know if the comic was mint, especially since the price tag was steep? Or is the dealer correct in keeping the integrity of the polybagged comic in its original condition, thus denying the right of anyone to know if it is mint or not?

It is a fact that those who buy packs of baseball cards have no qualms, whatsoever, to purchasing the packs without looking to see if the cards are mint. Unless they have x-ray eyes, there is no way to know.

It's a given!!! Yet on the other side of the coin, if the cards are damaged, the card companies are usually reliable in replacing them. A side of comic collecting that is not a given. I don't know of too many companies that would replace your comic if you wrote them and said your issue was damaged! So, the comic collector is at a disadvantage from the start when it comes to polybagged issues. Oh, to read or not to read, that is the question? Invest? Open that bag? God only knows! One cannot anticipate even with definite answers to these questions what a dealer will do. Nor will collectors be quick to open those polybagged comic till we know for sure!

Michael Presutti, Massachusetts

My opinion: A dealer has a right to handle his merchandise any way he chooses. A buyer has a right to verify what he is buying. Both have a right to refrain from doing business with each other, if they cannot agree. I feel it's a simple idea, yet I've seen similar arguments. Yet there are no simple answers to complex questions. This area of controversy will be with us for a long time. What 's your opinion readers?

RABIN'S WAR JOURNAL

Just thought I'd extend my sincerest wishes for continued editorial success. We're all rooting for you out here. I'd also like to suggest featuring a war section each month, or at least having an occasional feature in which war comics (especially DC War) can be discussed. It's a neglected area and requires a ton of research. Here is a tidbit of war facts:

Our Army at War #81 - Easy Co. story with somebody the Joe's call Sgt. Rocky...what????

GI Combat #87 - Not simply the 1st app. although not really an origin either. Heath masterfully illustrates the boyhood antics and inspiration for the tank crew. There is a depiction of the 4 men enlisting together. The backup story is by Heath and the cover is quintessential Heath.

GI Combat #114 - Origin of the ghost of Gen. Stuart in the Haunted Tank feature.

GI Combat #108 - 1st ever Sgt. Rock x-over. 2nd Sgt. Rock/Jeb Stuart team-up.

GI Combat #121 - First (and only?) appearance of Sgt. Rock's father. The Haunted Tank travels through a time warp and meets the Rock of WW I.

Brave & Bold #52 - 1st Sgt. Rock/Jeb Stuart/Mlle Marie/Johnny Cloud team-up. 1st full team-up of all the war characters (sans Gunner & Sarge).

Our Army at War #203 - listed in guide as "no Sgt. Rock". Only if you ignore the entire feature story with...Sgt. Rock.

Star Sp. War Stories #160 - Enemy Ace appears on a single page to introduce the next story. It could be Kubert's work, but I suspect (especially in the absence of Kubert's signature) that it is by Frank Thorne.

Sea Devils #13 - Kubert draws himself visiting the Sea Devils' headquarters, and being their guest of honor.

Detective #500 - Kubert pencils and inks on a new Hawkman and Hawkgirl story for the first time since Brave and Bold #44 (Atom & Hawkman #40, 41 don't count since they were inked by Anderson - who happens to be one of my favorite artists - but I am suggesting that the styles of the two masters clashed aesthetically, and produced a work that added up to far less than the sum total of their vast talents). Anyway, this story is Kubert through and through.

Mick Rabin, California

Thanks for the excellent research Mick. DC war continues to be one of the great unexplored areas. Keep up the good work. and say howdy to Spam for me...

SPINE ROLL

When people think of "High grade rare Silver Age", Showcase usually comes to mind. Excluding the rare first thirty issues, my vote for the rarest is number 81: Windy and Willie. I can imagine a kid not being willing to choke up twelve cents for such an offbeat comic. I know of quite a few dealers who also feel this issue is scarce in high grade.

I've also got an interesting question for you: Why is spine roll so common on Golden Age books, but very uncommon on Silver Age books? Scarcer Silver Age comics often have spine wear/splits, but almost never have spine rolls.

Overstreet CBM #1 looks fairly good, but I'd like to see more Marketplace Mail and I would like to see a small price guide for Golden Age within the magazine. There are so many fanzines out now, but barely any keep a constant relevance to Golden Age/early Silver Age books, so I'd like to see CBM become the magazine for serious collectors.
Nick Kronfeld, Connecticut

Windy and Willie is a good nomination for rarest later Showcase. I've done some surveys and it is an issue that is missing from many collections. I'm not sure, though, if it is missing because of rarity or because it's such a godawful comic. At any rate, it is an interesting topic for Showcase collectors.
Spine roll is caused by bending pages back combined with the thickness of the comic. I have seen thinner Silver Age books with spine roll, but the thicker, earlier books are usually the most likely candidates for this defect.
Please check out the first issue of Overstreet's ADVANCED COLLECTOR for more great Silver/Gold stuff. Nice to hear from you Nick.

SIGNED COMICS

I wanted to write to let you know what a great job I think you do, especially considering the scope of the entire industry. I've been

a big fan of Overstreet for a long time, and will be for many years.

The main reason I am writing is because I would like to know how much the value of a comic book would increase if it was autographed by its writer or artist. I see autographed comics at shows a good bit, but they are always offered for somewhat outrageous prices. Are these prices worth it? I would like to hear a response on this before I decide to invest in comics like this.

Robert A Harris, Alabama

You guys are asking the tough questions this month. There are many variables in this topic, so here goes. 1) Some collectors view any signature as a defect. 2) Some signatures are located in esthetically pleasing places in and on the comic, and some are not. and 3) Verification of the authenticity of a signature may be difficult, if the provenance of the book is unknown and/or there is no signature available for comparison. Many collectors are still uncomfortable paying a premium for signed issues, yet I know just as many who see the book as clearly more valuable.
My own opinion is... if the signature is important to you personally, feel free to get it. If your motive is purely profit, you might consider a good deal of background research first. Although I personally would never have a high grade book signed, I have had a few medium and low grade books signed purely for my own enjoyment with no thought of resale. I have had a number of artists that I admire sign program books, autograph/sketch books, and even slips of white paper that I have stored in the Mylar with the book. But these are just my views. Ultimately, the comic book marketplace of the future will settle this question. Thanks for writing.

STORAGE DILEMMA

I would like to thank your staff and your advisors for keeping level heads about comics. So many publications get caught up in the "hot" releases and gossip, but you all look at the big picture.

I have a question involving storage of comics. In my house there are only two places I can store. One, my room closet which has humidity between 55-65% with temp. about 75∞, two, my basement with humidity about 70-75% and temp. 60∞, with a chance of flooding. So you see, I'm kind of between a rock and a hard place. Any suggestions?

I loved your GiveAwayGimmick #2 (Reproduction of Price Guide #1); I wasn't born at the time, but it made you think, if only...).

D. Cadwell, Iowa

Cooler is better but flooding is a total bummer! Glad you liked GAG #2. We're very proud of our advisory board, too!

SUPER PIN-UP

Regarding the Marketplace Mail discussion about the very first superhero pin-up, specifically your statement in Overstreet Comic Book Monthly #3 supporting the back cover of Superman #1 as the first such item ("I think the dotted line on the back cover of Superman #1 is proof they intended for young readers to clip it for use as a poster"); allow me to present another piece of evidence in support of the back cover of Superman #1.

The house ad for Action Comics #14 which appears in Superman #1 (it faces the inside back cover) includes the following text: "Boys & Girls the back cover of this Superman book was made especially for framing! Be sure to cut off on the dotted line!" [sic].

For those who don't have an original Superman #1, you can check this out for yourself in either the 1978 Famous First Edition reprint, or on page 72 of the Superman Archives, Volume 1 hardcover. For what it's worth, the dotted line you mention does not appear on either reprint, so best of luck with that.

As I Valiant-ly move on to another topic, the first appearance of Shadowman in X-O Manowar #4, which you list as a cameo, is actually an unidentified one-panel appearance by Jack Boniface. In that panel, he's shown playing a saxophone on stage while Toyo Harada says to Ken Clarkson and Aric, "You'll like this performer, too. He's one of New Orleans' finest." In addition, the Harbinger kids make an appearance in this issue, which has the same cover date as Harbinger #5 (May 1992). (The first issue of X-O is dated February 1992, not November 1991 as stated in the listings.)

I hope I've been of some help with my comments and suggestions. After all, we fellow Garys have got to stick together, don't we?

Gary Dunaier, New York

Thanks for your additional evidence regarding the Supe #1 back cover. Nice reasearch Gary! Nice name too...

STUNNED IN MALAYSIA

I would first like to say that I was truly stunned when I first read CBM #2. It is truly an awesome magazine. But, I still think there is room for improvement. I was wondering, is it possible to buy a CBM #1 direct from you people? Until then, make mine CBM!!

Sanjit S. Randhawa, Malaysia

Yes there is room for improvement and we plan on plenty of it. Until those left are depleted, the remaining copies of CBM #1 are available for cover price plus postage. Of course, postage to your location is around $4000 (just kidding). Nice to hear from you Sanjit. I am pronouncing that correctly I hope...

CHANGE IN M'S

When I discovered the original CBM, I nearly did backflips with joy, as there was finally a magazine devoted to serious collecting and enjoyment of

comics. After reading the first three issues of Overstreet's CBM, I was pleased to see that the substance of the magazine is still basically intact. In a flood of gimmicked price guide magazines, the simple beauty of the new CBM stands out like a beacon. Where else would one find an article on the Sons of Superman and Batman? This is great stuff!

I was, however, disappointed with the lack of Golden Age material in the new CBM as compared to the old CBM. This disappointment disappeared when I saw a solicitation for Overstreet's Advance Collectors Quarterly magazine. What a brilliant idea! I am eagerly awaiting this mag, as the Golden Age (and Silver Age, for that matter) is the most interesting and enjoyable era in comics for me - probably because I was born in 1970, and am not financially capable of acquiring many Golden Age Gems.

I am, however, disappointed with the change in M's: from Marketplace to Monthly. I can understand wanting to get the message across that the mag is a monthly, but at the sacrifice of the most original, alliterative, and unique name in the business?!? Please reinstate Marketplace to its proper position on the cover! Comic Book Monthly does not have the pizzazz of Comic Book Marketplace! Besides, it rolls right off the tongue. Try saying it like a mantra: Comic Book Marketplace, Comic Book Marketplace, Comic Book Marketplace... see now, don't you feel better?

Chuck Garner, Georgia

You'll get used to it...You'll get used to it...You'll get used to it...You'll get used to it...You'll get used to it...You'll get used to it...

WOLVERINE VARIABLES

Dear CBM, I am writing for a few things. First, I have a Wolverine #50 with a UPC code in the left corner, and without a group of ads in the center. I have another one with a Fantastic Four 30th Anniversary logo thing in the UPC area, and it has a bunch of ads in the center. I want to know if that difference can change the value any. It's not stated in the guide, so I assumed that they were worth the same, but I wanted to check just in case you did not know about it. Are direct editions any different than regular ones. I think Wolverines #48-51 are a little under priced. I thought they were great (a little confusing, but great). But I have only been collecting for a few years, so I don't really think I am qualified to judge them like your great staff of advisors.

I love your magazine, but then doesn't everybody? I love your giveaway gimmicks. It's like life imitating art or art imitating life or something like that. I buy your magazine all the time for the articles and info.

Seneca Riggins, Wyoming

You presume correctly. Maybe it's art imitating art?

RANDAL TUSHA & ROBERT LETSCHER II
KEY COMICS
COMICS FOR SALE!!

ACTION COMICS
687 (Collect ed) $1.25
687 (Newsstand) ..... .90
688 ..... .90

ADVENT OF SUPERMAN
500 (Collect ed) 1.50
500 (Newsstand) 1.50
501 (Collect ed) 1.50
501 (Newsstand) ..... .90

BOMBAST ROGUE
1 ..... 1.25

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
325 (McFarlane) 2.95
345 (Delos Cassidy) 9.95
346 (Peterb) 6.75
Set 361-363 ..... 14.95
374 (Venom)

ARCHER & ARMSTRONG
0 ..... 9.95
1 ..... 4.50
2 (2nd Turok), 3-6 ..... 3.50
7 ..... 3.50
8 (1st Isaac) 3.95
9, 11, 12 ..... 1.75
10 (1st Avenger) 1.95

BATMAN
457 (New Robin) ..... .65
493 (Knightfall pt 3) 2.95
494 (Knightfall pt 4) 2.50
495 (Knightfall pt 9) 1.95
496 (Knightfall pt 10) 1.50
Sword of Azrael 14.95

BLOODSHOT
1 ..... 4.50
2 ..... 2.50
3 5 ..... 1.75
6 (Iimit 10) 5.50
7 (Ming in costume) 2.95

BLOODSTRIKE (IMAGE)
1 (Liefeld art) 1.95

BOMBAST
1 (Savage Dragon app.) 1.75

BRIGADE (Chad Series)
1 ..... 1.50

DARK HORSE PRESENTS
46 (Predator) 50

DEATHBLOW (Image)
1 (Jim Lee art) 1.75

DEATH'S HEAD II
#' ed set 1-4 ..... 13.95

DETECTIVE COMICS
659 (Knightfa ' pt 23 ..... 4.50
660 (Knightfall pt 4) 2.50
661 (Knightfall pt 6) 1.95
662 (Knightfall pt 8) 1.95
663 (Knightfall pt 10) 1.50

ETERNAL WARRIOR
1 ..... 7.95
2 ..... 3.95
3 (Armstrong) 3.00
4 (1st Bloodshot) 15.95
5 (1st Full Bloodshot) 9.50
6 (2nd Master D'Arque) 3.75
7 (3rd M. D Arq) 3.75
8 (1st Ivar) 3.95
9 ..... 2.75
10-12 ..... 1.50
13 (Callone returns) 1.40

GHOST RIDER (1990s)
6 (Punisher) 3.95
9, 11 ..... 2.95
18, 25 ..... 1.00

HARBINGER
1 (16th rarest Valiant) 100.95
2-4 ..... 59.95

HARBINGER
5 (7th rarest Valiant 39.95
6 (4th rarest Valiant) 29.95
Set 1-6 ..... 299.95
7 ..... 12.95

SHADOWMAN
8, 9 ..... 3.95
10 (1st HC) 5.95
11 (2nd HC) 12 13 ..... 2.95
14 (1st Stronghold) 11.95
15 (Eric Stronghold) 3.95
16 (1st Livewire) 1.75
17 (1st Simon) 1.75
18 (1st Scream) 1.75
19 (1st Slamma) 1.75
TPB (1st Print with Hi-ti-D) 7.50

H.A.R.D Corps
1 ..... 2.95
2-6 ..... 1.95
7 (1st Hotshot) 1.50
8 ..... 1.25

IMAGE SWIMSUIT
1 ..... 3.50

INFINITY GUANTLET
1, 4 ..... 1.25

MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER
1 (1st Valiant Hero Comic) 37.95
2 ..... 22.95
3 (1st app Tekla) 24.95
4 (Scarce/RAi cameo & origin) 34.95
5 (1st full app RAi) 39.95
6 (2nd RAi/1st Solar X Over) 24.95
7 (1st RO armor) 24.95
8 (0D Commando ' 17.95
9 ..... 8.50
12 (1st Turok) 89.95
13 (Pre-Unity) 7.50
14 (1st Isak) 8.95
15, 16, 21 ..... 3.95
22, 23 (2nd Isak) 1.50
24 (Reiiig), 26, 27 ..... 1.25
25 (1st Geo) 1.50

MARVEL COMICS PRES
86 (2nd Jae Lee) 85
87 (3rd Jae Lee) 70

MAXX
1 ..... 1.50
2 ..... 1.25

1963 (Image)
1 (Mystery inc) 1.10
2 (The Fury) 1.10

NEW MUTANTS
87 (2nd print) ..... .30
100 (1st X-Force) 2.95
AN ' ..... .50

NIGHTGLIDER (Topps)
1 ..... 1.75

PREDATOR VS. MAGNUS
1 2 ..... 2.25

RAGMAN
1 ..... .50

RAI & THE FUTURE FORCE
0 ..... 16.95
0 (Death of Japan) 4.25
0 (Death of Japan) 5.95
9-12 ..... 1.25

ROBIN (1st Series)
1, 2, 3 (1st print) ..... .90

SANDMAN
50 ..... 1.50
Special 1 ..... 1.75

SATAN'S SIX (Topps)
1 ..... 1.75

SAVAGE DRAGON
3 (with coupon) 1.95

SHADOWHAWK
3 (glow in dark) 2.50

SHADOWHAWK
TPB (foil embossed) 9.95

SHADOWHAWK II
1 (2nd mini-series) 2.50

SHADOWMAN
1 ..... 32.95
2 (14th rarest Valiant) 14.95
3 (1st Sosa) 15.95
4-7 ..... 3.95
8 (1st D'Arque) 2.50
9 (Sosa App) 2.50
10 (1st D'Arque's Sis) 2.95
11, 12, 24 ..... 1.75
15 1st R L Mcheely 3.50
16 Dr Mirage 4.75

SOLAR- MAN OF THE ATOM
0 ..... 24.95
1, 14 ..... 24.95
6 WI-NM (Spider Aliens) 22.95
10 (1st ET- Warrior) 59.95
11 (Full ET Warrior) 12.95
12, 13, 16 ..... 3.95
15 (2nd Bender) 10.95
17-20 ..... 2.95
21, 22 (D'Arque) 1.50
23 (Solar spirits) 2.75

SPAWN
1 ..... 4.95
2 ..... 6.95
3 ..... 5.95
WI-NM 4.95
6 ..... 2.25
7 ..... 1.75
8 9 10 ..... 1.50

SPEC. SPIDER-MAN
189 (Hologram) 2.50
200 ..... 1.50
201 (Carnage) ..... .75

SPIDER-MAN
6, 7 (Oldest Rider) 1.50
14 (Marbius) 2.50
16 (Ox-Force) 1.25
35 (Carnage) 1.25

STORMWATCH (Image)
1 ..... 1.50

SUPERMAN
77 (Funeral pt 8) ..... .90
78 (Collectors ed) 1.25
78 (Newsstand) ..... .90
79 ..... .90

SUP MAN MAN OF STEEL
21 (Funeral pt 7) ..... .90
22 (Collector's ed) 1.25
22 (Newsstand) ..... .90

SUPREME (Image)
1, 2 ..... 1.95

TRENCHER (Image)
1 ..... 1.50

TRIBE (Image)
1 ..... 1.50

TUROK
1 ..... 1.50

2099 UNLIMITED
1 ..... 2.50

UNITY
0 ..... 6.50
1 ..... 5.50
Card Set 12.95

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN
90 (Hologram) 2.00
100 ..... 1.50

WILDCAT S
1, 3, 4 ..... 1.95

X-FACTOR
70,71 50

X-FORCE
1 (set all 5 cards) 4.50
2, 4, 5 ..... .75
9 ..... 1.25
10 (X-cutioners Song) ..... .75

X-MEN. UNCANNY
281, 282 299, 310 ..... .75
282, 255 ..... 1.50
300 ..... 1.95

X-MEN
1A-D 90
1E 1.25
1 (1st Omega Red) 2.25
5 ..... 3.25
8-11, 14, 15, 21 ..... 1.95

X-MEN UNLIMITED
1 ..... 2.50

XO MANOWAR
1 ..... 29.95
2 ..... 14.95
3 ..... 9.95
10 12 ..... 5.95
14 (Turok) 2.95
15 (Turok 1.95
16 19 ..... 1.50

YOUNGBLOOD
0 (with card) 1.50
1 ..... 2.25
4 ..... 1.75

YOUNGBLOOD: STRIKEFILE
1 ..... 1.95

Terms:
1) All books are 1st print and NM-M There is no minimum per issue purchase
2) Orders may be paid with check, money order VISA MasterCard, or cash C O D Unlike most of our competitors, we pay the processing fees for credit cards, not you
3) Shipping is $4 50 + .5 cents/bk for UPS, $5 00 + 10 cents/bk for Post Office The minimum order is $25 All C O D s are charged the $4 50 UPS C O D fee An international orders are shipped Parcel Post Air and are charged exact shipping plus a $4 00 handling fee
4) All mail-in orders should include a list of alternates, as supplies may be limited
5) Prices are subject to change due to market conditions or with the release of a new ad
6) Send checks or money orders to

KEY COMICS
1230 S. Gilbert Rd , Suite G-12, Mesa, AZ 85204
(602) 926-7106

7) Please report any problems to us within 48 hrs. of receipt. Your satisfaction is guaranteed

NEW STORE IN METROPOLIS

I am writing in regards to my new business which is located in Metropolis, IL. My fiancé, Gregg Lavean, and I, Kathryn Crayne, have just recently opened a comic book store in the official home town of Superman.

Metropolis Comics & Collectibles is the first establishment to sell only comics & comic collectibles in Metropolis, IL. Of course, the other business located in Metropolis have always sold newsstand copies of comic books. Our business sells direct issue comics, and we buy our stuff from Capital City Distribution, Sparta, IL.

Gregg and I have been collecting comics for quite some time, and our main interests are in Star Trek and Star Trek/TNG. We opened this business because of our fascination for comics. We both have full time careers and devote our spare time to the business.

Metropolis Comic & Collectibles is doing well for a new business. Our main attraction, of course, is Superman. Superman is a hot item; especially in his home town.
Kathryn Crayne, Illinois

Great Caesar's Ghost, Kathryn, congrats on your new store! By the way, could you ask Superman to give me a call... my signal watch needs a new battery.

NICK'S INFO

Hi, here's some info that might interest you: 1) Tony Starks is correct; Russ Manning did indeed write some of the Gold-Key issues. Check out this response from the letter-page in Magnus Robot-Fighter #11 (Aug. 65): "Since as many as four different writers have contributed to our books, we do not credit any of them. However, word has gotten out that Russ Manning penned the story in this issue (#11) and that is correct". 2) The "Destiny" character first appeared in Weird Mystery Tales #1 (Jul/Aug. 72), which has some great Kirby art. As far as I know, he did not appear in DC's other horror/mystery books. 3) Strange Tales 37 (Jun 52) contains a vampire story by Gene Colan, as well as a story illustrated by Joe Maneely. Neither is mentioned in OPG #23. 4) More obscure 1st appearances in Detective: #351 - The Cluemaster, #355-The Hooded Hangman, #358-The Spellbinder. Maybe the Cluemaster can clue us in on who the heck these other two guys are! Also Detective #353: The Weather Wizard appears! The Flash appears only on the cover of this one. Too bad! (Infantino art too!)

Nick Alfonso, Canada

The story in Det 353 is great too! Tony and I thank you for the Russ Manning confirmation.

MLACHNIK II

More data... Howard The Duck #13 not only boasts the first full appearance of "Kiss", but also features a Damien Hellstrom appearance as well as a cameo of Howard The Duck as the Son of Satan. Why should this issue be of lesser value than Marvel Comics Super Special #1?

As "Kiss" and Damien Hellstrom are hotter than Howard The Duck, it stands to reason that issues #12 and #13 of Howard The Duck should be most sought after! See Ya!
John Mlachnik, Minnesota

Geez John... Howard The Duck data... how could you!?!

PLOOG PLUG

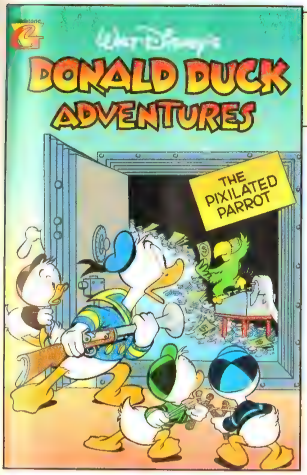
Thanks! Overstreet is now monthly! It's great to have a monthly Price Guide in addition to a magazine that realizes there were great comics before Amazing Spider-Man #298. The only change I'd like to see would be in the CBM Market Reports. I'd prefer more commentary and less price listings.

Secondly, a datum to update the best price guide in the industry: not that anybody really cares, but having bought Man-Thing #5 at a garage sale, and then looking it up for its book value, I found the notation "5-11 have Ploog art". The credits (see enclosed photocopy) list Don Perlin and Bob Wiacek as artists. Just so you know. Keep up the good work!
Matthew D. Hall, Illinois

Thanks for the corrections, Matt, and thanks to everyone who wrote the hundreds of letters this month. Please be assured that we read every one and take your feedback to heart. If you'd care to write, we'd love to hear from you! Send your data, comments, and questions to:

Marketplace Mail
c/o CBM
P. O. Box 2610
Cleve., TN 37320
or FAX us at
(615) 479-8156

THIS MONTH...



Donald Duck Adventures #22

In Barks' "The Pixilated Parrot," Donald and the boys chase Uncle Scrooge's wayward avian bean-counter to South America and back again to recover vital information! The Junior Woodchucks fill out the issue in "Lamplighters," a tale from the Egmont Group.

...IN GLADSTONE

Walt Disney's Comics and Stories #587

Donald is determined to rest and relax, no matter what, in William Van Horn's "Out of Harmony's Way." Mickey and his friends conclude their western adventure in the second chapter of "The Lair of Wolf Barker," with art by Floyd Gottfredson and Al Taliaferro.

Uncle Scrooge #282

Scrooge and Donald clash over the value of a coin in the classic Barks ten-pager "The Trouble With Dimes," which makes a pointed observation of collecting in general. Gyro Gearloose gets competition from a rival in the Egmont Group's "Formula X."

Simultaneously distributed to newsstands by Marvel.

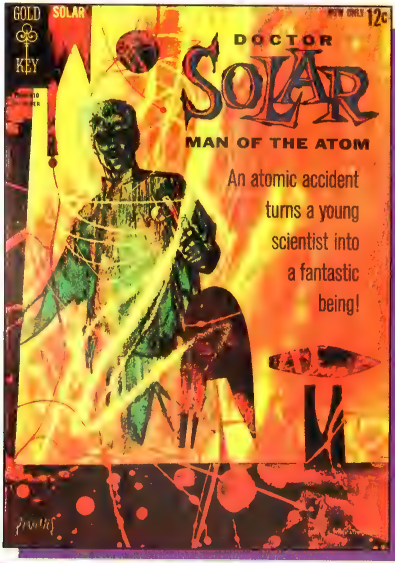
Disney Comics Distributed by Marvel

SOLAR...BEFORE VALIANT!

A hit for Valiant Publications, Solar, Man of the Atom, has gone through many changes since the time, over 30 years ago, that Doctor Solar was a hit for another new publisher, Gold Key. A look back at these Gold Key issues should prove both fun and informative.

Doctor Solar #1 (Oct. 1962) enjoys the distinction of being the first comic published by Gold Key, and begins with a bang when Solar shoves Dr. Gail Sanders out of the path of a runaway rocket sled. This was a precursor of things to come - Atom Valley was constantly the site or cause of some near disaster. This premiere issue tells the origin of the "Man of the Atom" (see chart), plus introduces Dr. Clarkson, the project administrator, and Nuro, mystery villain, and would be world conqueror. Nuro is surely comicdoms most overworked villain, appearing in 25 of 31 issues.

Doctor Solar #2 (Dec. 1962) reveals that Solar is impervious to physical harm when a mind-controlled (by Nuro) Gail whacks him on the head with a paper weight, and injects him with a hypnotic drug; neither has any effect. Issue #2 also begins those wonderful Professor Harbinger stories.



Doctor Solar #1 (Oct, 1962) The Origin Issue. Note: The rare signed, painted Gold Key cover. © Western Pub.

By Tony Starks

This first one explores the ecological consequences of global warming, 20+ years before it became a real concern!

Doctor Solar #5 (Sept. 1963) finally reveals to the world the costumed Man of the Atom. Gail confronts Solar and Clarkson, demanding to know what is going on. They conclude, "If Gail is suspicious, others might be." They decide, "A costume would disguise me, while identifying its wearer as the Man of the Atom."

The Letters of Comment (LOC) column in issue #5 identifies Paul Newman as the writer of most of the Doctor Solar stories. This is also the last issue done by artist Bob Fugitani, whose dark, powerful images were ideally suited to the uncostumed Doctor Solar. Frank Bolle took over as artist for issues #6-19.

Doctor Solar #7 (Mar. 1964) showcases some of the best and the worst of the Gold Key series. The first story, "Vanishing Oceans", chronicles Solar's first encounter with aliens. These aliens are stealing our oceans, and our hero stops them by blowing them and their spaceship up as they leave earth. A nice story with no Nuro. Humorously, this issue's LOC column contains a letter from Jerry Bails, editor of early comic fanzines Alter Ego and Comic Reader. Jerry suggests outer space settings but requests, "please don't give us space aliens".

In the second story, "The Guided Comet", Nuro threatens the earth with a comet. Doctor Solar first cuts off the comets tail, then changing into a Solar wind blows out the comet like a candle, and finally changes its core from iron to titanium. Exhausted, he rides a nearby rocket to the Van Allen Belt where the radioactivity restores his energy. Solar stops the comet from crashing into the earth by creating a glacier of ice in mid-air in front of the plummeting comet, slowing its decent. This from editors who promised readers real science in

their science fiction.

Doctor Solar #9 (Oct. 1964) is the first appearance of Aral Uzbek - Nuro's trusted assistant. This is also the last issue besides #13 to have a back cover pin-up and no advertising.

Solar develops amnesia in **Doctor Solar #11 (Mar. 1965)**, and for a time worked for Nuro. Incredibly, it never occurred to Nuro to unmask Solar and learn his true identity. In later LOC columns, readers pointed out this obvious oversight. Future publisher, Mike Friederick, also had a letter published in issue #11.

Doctor Solar #12 (May 1965) is the first time Solar divides into multiple versions of himself. "The Mystery of Vanishing Silver" is a prophetic story that has Nuro buying up and hoarding silver, thereby driving up the price. Fifteen years later, the Hunt brothers did just that.

The editors received many letters from readers about **Doctor Solar #14 (Sept. 1965).** In "Solar's Midas Touch" an accident changes Solar's atomic chemistry: "Your adding one proton to the nucleus of any element you touch... changing its entire atomic structure" (copper to zinc, etc.). However, readers pointed out dozens of instances where Solar touched something without change. The editors maintained Solar's powers were acting erratically, sometimes changing elements, sometimes not. They did acknowledge that a gold statue changed to mercury should have oozed into a puddle, and not remained in statue form.

Responding to readers requests, **Doctor Solar #15 (Dec. 1965)**, retells the Man of the Atom's origin. A stunning cover that literally tells the story leads off "Doomsday Minus One Minute". Solar travels back in time to learn how to disarm a radio-wave bomb threatening to detonate the world's nuclear arsenals. Arriving in the past before he became the Man of the Atom, Dr. Solar must relive the events that led to him getting his powers. If he so chooses, he could expose Dr. Rasp as a spy before he sabotages the reactor, thus preventing Dr. Bentley's death, and allowing Solar to lead a normal life. Solar decides not to try to change the past, and returns to the future once he regains his powers.

Doctor Solar #17 (Sept. 1966) is the first appearance of Nuro's android henchman, whose name is revealed as Orun (Nuro spelled backwards) in **Doctor Solar #18 (Dec. 1966)**. Also in issue #18, Solar, for the first time, refers to Nuro by name, indicating he knows of his existence. Curiously, in **Doctor Solar #19 (Apr. 1967),** Nuro is back to being a mystery villain.

Regardless, a trapped Solar finally meets Nuro in **Doctor Solar #20 (July 1967)**. Introduced in this issue is Gail

SOLAR, MAN OF THE ATOM CONVERSION CHART

GOLD KEY

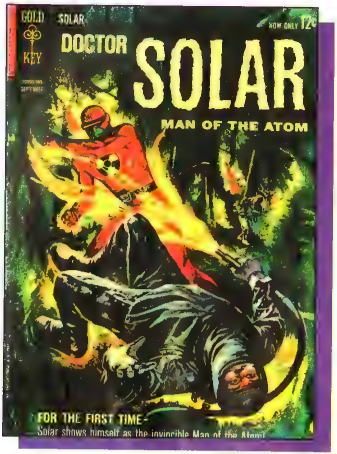
VALIANT

SECRET IDENTITY	
Dr. Raymond Solar	Dr. Phil Seleski
LOCATION	
Atom Valley	Edgewater Advance Fusion Research Center
GIRL FRIEND	
Dr. Gail Sanders **Solars' radiation leakage prevents a relationship*	Dr. Gail Nordheim **Gayle and Phil are lovers and live together.*
PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR	
Dr. Clarkson	Dr. Dobson

ORIGIN RECAP

While working on energy to matter experiments, Dr.s' Solar and Bentley receive fatal doses of radiation while shutting down an atomic reactor sabotaged by Dr. Rasp, a spy working for Nuro. Bentley dies, but somehow the elements in Solar's body are changed into radioactive ones, giving him fantastic powers. Solar leaks radiation and the red suit both establishes an alter ego and protects people near him.

15 year old Phil Seleski was inspired by Gold Key's Doctor Solar to become a nuclear physicist. In a scenario remarkably similar to the origin of his comic book hero, Seleski recieves a lethal dose of radiation and develops similar powers. Seleski accidentally creates a black hole which destroys the earth and its inhabitants and sends him back in time. Given a second chance, he prevents it from happening. For a time, there were three of him, but they agreed to merge together. Seleski does not leak energy–the red suit is a symbol of the naive yet courageous part of himself that wants to help everyone.



Doctor Solar #5 (Sept, 1963): 1st app. of Solar as a costumed superhero. © Western Pub.

Sanders' brainy 15 year old nephew, Hamilton Mansfield Lamont.

In the LOC column of **Doctor Solar #21 (10/67),** Solar's first name is finally revealed - it's Raymond, Dr. Raymond Solar. The editors also seemingly relent to readers persistent request for new villains. They promise, "You won't see Nuro for awhile. Many super-villains are coming".

So guess who the villain is in **Doctor Solar #22 (Jan. 1968)**? A hint: The story is entitled "The Two Lives of Nuro". Forgive them though, for this is a dynamite story and a key issue in the series. Aral Uzbek, humiliated by Orun's usurping him as Nuro's second-in-command, provides Interpol with detailed information on Nuro's operations. Nuro discovers Uzbek's treachery and has Orun kill him. The next day, Solar and the armed might of half-a-dozen nations storm Nuro's island stronghold. Fighting their way through a maze of booby-traps, Solar and the soldiers find Nuro and Orun side by side in their reinforced bunker - apparent suicides. Nuro's body is buried, and Orun taken to Atom Valley for study. The next morning, Orun revives, kills two guards and escapes. A taped message left behind explains that Nuro's mind has been placed in Orun's head: "As a robot with a human brain, I have achieved super-human immortality with a hundred times my original power." Thus is born King Cybernoid.

Unfortunately, after such a great story, the next several issues were mediocre at best, and sales slumped. The title was canceled with **Doctor Solar #27 (Apr. 1969)**.

It is a mistake to dismiss the four issues published in 1981-82 by Whitman. Look past the Whitman logo and lackluster covers, and one finds some great stories. With **Doctor Solar #29 (1981),** Frank Bolle returns to do the art on Roger McKenzie's excellent scripts. For the first time Solar is called by his first name, and at once the aloof, untouchable Dr. Solar became more human. Deeply saddened by the loss of his humanity, Ray Solar's anguish over his inability to have a relationship with Gail was now clear.

The final issue, **Doctor Solar #31 (1982),** gave readers what they had been requesting for years - a super powered antagonist besides Nuro. "When Strikes the Sentinel" is a clever story that finds Gail Sanders serving as a scientific consultant for a movie. The Sentinel is played by Harris, a second string actor infatuated with Gail. The movie's director is a bully, especially towards Harris. After an electrical accident gives him the power to make energy constructs, Harris comes after the director and Gail. Twice Solar battles the Sentinel - eventually defeating him by cutting off his power supply, a computer controlled laser projector on the set.

These Gold Key issues of Doctor Solar are great collectibles which guide for moderate prices. Beautiful books to own, they should also be great investments and several issues really stand out. Consider adding these issues to your want list. ■

Editors Note: CBM and Tony Starks would like to thank the Book Broker and Mike Seibert in Evansville, Indiana for the loan of issues needed to complete this article.

Starks Stats: Solar, Man of the Atom

#1 Easily a $1000+ book if published by Marvel or D.C. Published five months before Spider-Man #1. Guide $225

#5 The first appearance of Doctor Solar as a costumed Superhero. Published the same month as Avengers #1. Guide $50

#9 First appearance Aral Uzbek. Guide $50

#15 Origin retold, incredible cover. Guide $32

#17-18 First appearance (#17 is a cameo) of Orun. Guide $28

#22 Death of Aral Uzbek, death of Nuro, first appearance of King Cybernoid. Guide $20

HOT DEALS

Limited Membership Promotion
FREE $49 Enrollment Fee
FREE $19 1st Month's Fee

Join Now!

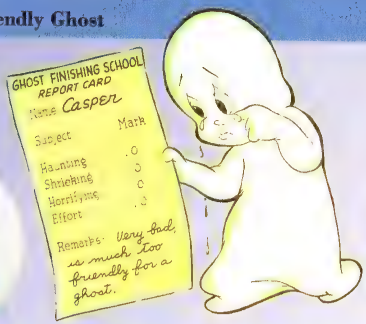
ARE MADE ON

COMIC MART

THE COMPUTER TRADING NETWORK

800-678-2201

Current Members Include:
* Image©
* UpperDeck©
* Valiant©
* Michael Naiman - Pricing Editor
Overstreet's Comic Book Marketplace©



A G-G-G-GHOST!!

As the story goes, all of the other ghosts are evil and taunt Casper because he's different from other ghosts... he's friendly! Upset, Casper goes into town hoping to make a friend to cheer him up. All he encounters are adults who do Tex Avery style doubletakes and shriek "A G-g-g-ghost!!!". Casper is more heartbroken than ever until he befriends a child or small animal. They play until some danger arises and then Casper saves the day. End of story.

That tried and true scenario happens over and over again in every issue of *Casper, the Friendly Ghost*, right?

Casper The Stereotyped Ghost

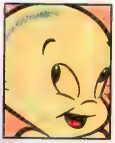
Wrong!

True, it is what usually happened in virtually all of the Famous/Paramount animated cartoons. But the comic book series has always been a little more interesting and features a surprisingly large number of stories filled with great humor, mystery, and even occasional social issues!

For those collectors who doubt this proposition, take a look at the various Casper titles, especially those published between 1960 and 1975. They may change your view. Some of the most fantastic artwork and writing ever to come out of the Harvey "children's" line, appeared in Casper titles. Most issues were drawn by Warren Kremer (one of the most underrated comic book artists of all time) and written by people like Charlie Strauss, Ralph Newman, Stan Kay, Jim Miele, Lennie Herman and Carl Wessler.

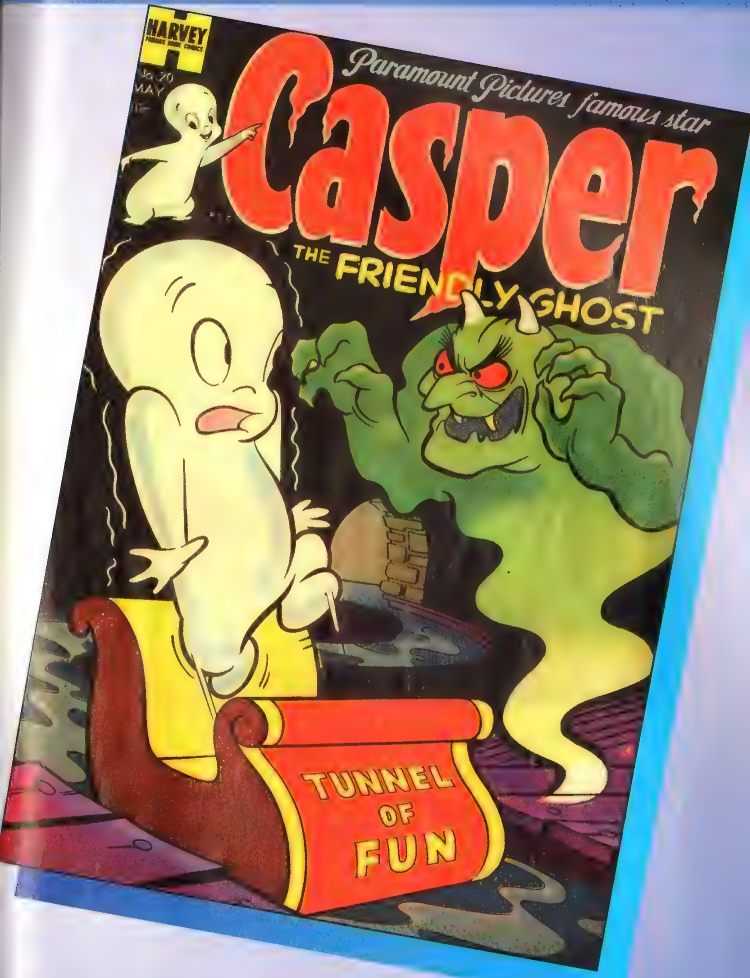
Admittedly, early issues of *Casper* followed the same format as the Paramount cartoons. In contrast, Many collectors, historians, and fans have suggested that many later issues actually achieved comparable excellence with Carl Barks' Disney work.

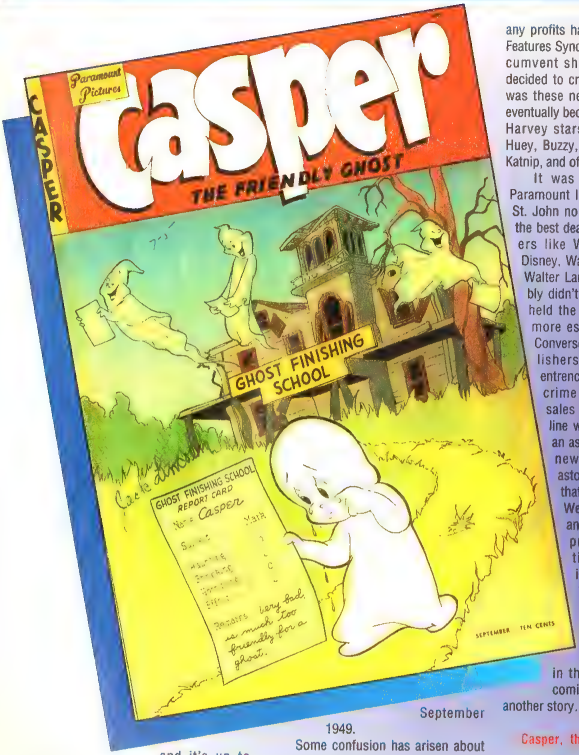
Notable examples of these excellent stories are: "Fun's Fun", "Wow!, What a Whammy!", "Clever Clyde's Mistake", "As Complicated as ABC", "Trick or Treat", "The Smoker" and my all time favorite Casper story, "Invasion".



In "Invasion", the enchanted forest is invaded by beings from another planet who are at first invisible, but later change their form to look exactly like something or someone else. This makes them hard to detect, except for their ravenous appetite and sharp teeth. Called the "greedies", these beings begin eating anything and everything in sight,

by Mark Arnold


HARVEY
No. 20
MAY
Paramount Pictures famous star
Casper
THE FRIENDLY GHOST
TUNNEL OF FUN



September

and it's up to Casper to stop them before they eat the entire planet.

Casper, the Animated Ghost

The character of Casper was based on a story by Joe Oriolo and developed by Seymour Reit. But it was Warren Kremer who gave Casper the look that made him famous. He first appeared in a Paramount cartoon called "The Friendly Ghost", in 1945. During a successful run of 55 theatrical cartoons, the first Casper comic book appeared in 1949.

Some confusion has arisen about the Casper title. To begin with, the first issue of *Casper, the Friendly Ghost*, was published by St. John and not by Harvey. St. John had already achieved success by publishing comic book adventures of the Terrytoons, featuring Mighty Mouse and Heckle and Jeckle. Licensing animated cartoon stars for comic books was a profitable venture, and all of the major characters of the day sported their own comic books.

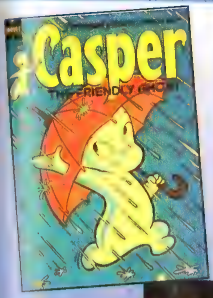
Paramount was no exception. Its comic books of Popeye sold well but since Paramount did not own Popeye, any profits had to be shared with King Features Syndicate. In an attempt to circumvent shred profits, Paramount decided to create all-new characters. It was these new characters that would eventually become the future universe of Harvey stars. These included Baby Huey, Buzzy, Little Audrey, Herman & Katnip, and of course, Casper.

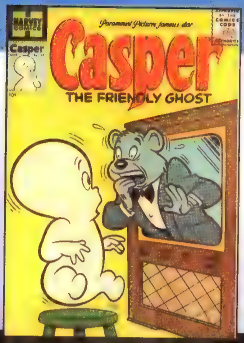
It was these characters that Paramount licensed for comic books. St. John no doubt offered Paramount the best deal, as other comic publishers like Western (Dell) had the Disney, Warner Brothers, MGM, and Walter Lantz characters and probably didn't think these "newcomers" held the same sales potential as more established cartoon stars. Conversely, Harvey and other publishers who were still firmly entrenched in their superhero and crime titles likely viewed the sales potential of a children's line with some skepticism. (As an aside, many collectors, both new and old, are often astounded when they discover that the publisher of Casper, Wendy, Audrey, Baby Huey, and Little Lotta is the same publisher whose horror titles are famous for intense violence and gore. So much gore, in fact, that many were singled out as the worst offenders of good taste by the infamous Dr. Wertham in the years just before the comics code. Ah... but that's another story...)

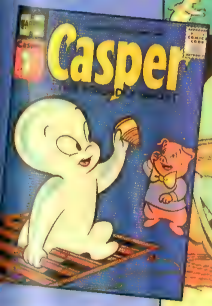
Casper, the Mismumbered Ghost

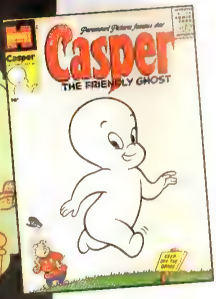
The first issue of *Casper* also included the first appearances of Baby Huey and Herman the mouse. In all, St. John published five issues on an irregular basis from 1949-1951. Harvey then took over with the sixth appearance which was published as *Harvey Comics Hits* #61 (#6) in 1952. Then, the real Harvey Casper series began with #7 (12/52).

Casper, the Friendly Ghost continued to be published by Harvey until issue #70, when the series started over with #1, the very next month. This









All Images © Harvey Comics

change must have been very abrupt, for ads exist mentioning *Casper, the Friendly Ghost* #71. The reason for this change is that Harvey had now purchased complete rights, in perpetuity, for all of the Paramount characters (except Popeye). Now, *Casper, the Friendly Ghost* became *The Friendly Ghost, Casper.*

Casper, the Confusing Ghost

To the casual observer, this two similar titles can cause a great deal of confusion. I've seen issues of *The Friendly Ghost, Casper* listed for *Casper, the Friendly Ghost* prices, and vice-verse. An easy way to tell the two series' apart: all Harvey *Casper, the Friendly Ghost* covers bear the legend "Paramount Picture's Famous Star" and the words "The Friendly Ghost" below "Casper". *The Friendly Ghost, Casper* covers have no Paramount reference, and "The Friendly Ghost" is printed above "Casper". Of course if you forget, you can always check the indicia just to be sure. (To further add to collector confusion, Jeff Montgomery, when he took over the company in the late '80s, changed the Casper title back to *Casper, the Friendly Ghost* once again and eventually restarted the numbering with Volume 2, #1.)

Casper, the Inexpensive Ghost

It's no secret that early Casper comics are in demand and a little tricky to find, especially in top condition. Yet most collectors still view their present Overstreet value to be a bargain, if they can be located in acceptable condition (most of the St. John issues that surface are usually ragged and well worn). The St. John first issue currently lists for $425 in Mint, $182 in Fine, and $61 in Good. While Harvey's *The Friendly Ghost, Casper* #1 (Aug 1958) lists for $125 in Mint, $54 in Fine, and $18 in Good. Prices for early issues have gradually but steadily increased as Casper continues to be one of the most recognizable cartoon superstars and continues to be popular with each new generation that comes along. I find the most rewarding reading seems to be in the later Casper comic books, and their worth goes far beyond their extremely reasonable Guide value.

Whether in the movies, on TV, or in the Comics, Casper, the Friendly Ghost has emerged as a genuine icon of American popular culture. When a little boy died and Casper was born in a late 1940's cartoon, it gave collectors and fans everywhere the opportunity to say "a g-g-ghost... but a friendly one"!

Editor's Note: Mark Arnold is the editor and publisher of "The Harveyville Fun Times!", a fanzine devoted to Harvey Comics. He has been a comic collector since 1976 and has contributed Harvey data to the 1992 and 1993 editions of the Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide.

CASPER CARTOON TRIVIA:

Which studio originally created the Casper cartoons?

Famous Studios actually produced the Casper cartoons. They were only released through Paramount.

Who created the first Casper cartoon?

Producer and animator Joe Oriolo and writer Seymour Wright.

What was Casper's name in the first three cartoons?

Casper had no name.

How much were the rights to the Casper character originally sold for?

Joe Oriolo sold out his rights to the Casper character before the first release (to his embarrassment) for the paltry sum of $175.00.

What was the title of the first Casper cartoon?

"The Friendly Ghost".

What was the title of the second cartoon?

"There's Good Boos Tonight", released on 4/23/48.

What was the title of the third cartoon?

"A Haunting We Will Go" Released 5/13/49.

When was the friendly Ghost finally named Casper?

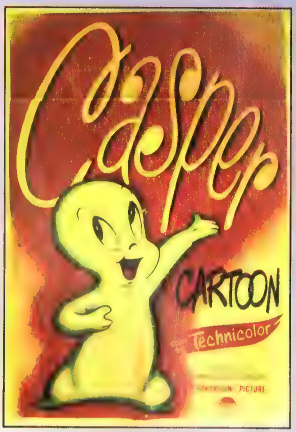
June of 1949.

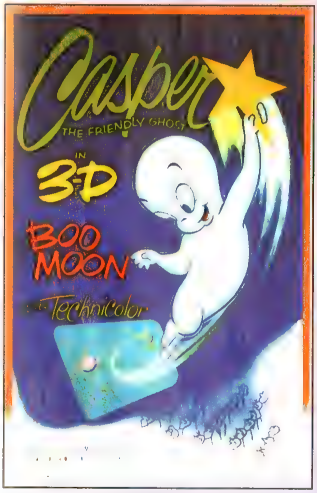
What was the first Casper cartoon of the regular series?

"Casper's Spree Under the Sea", released on 10/13/50.

CASPER MOVIE POSTER GALLERY

Right:
Casper's first cartoon poster (circa 1950) for "Caspers Spree Under the Sea". Only a single example of this historic theatrical one-sheet is known to exist.





Above:
The first 3D cartoon in animation history starred the friendly ghost, Casper. This scarce and beautiful one-sheet for "Boo Moon" is one of the few known copies and is considered by collectors to be among the most desirable animation one-sheets. (All animation one-sheets courtesy the Mark Wilson collection.)

Below:
An extremely rare example of the earliest known "Noveltoon" poster (circa 1943). The "Noveltoon" Jack-in-the-Box later became the Harvey logo.

The UN-Known, UN-Timely, and UN-Believable Covers Of ALEX SCHOMBURG

Why are Timely Comics with World War II covers considered by most seasoned collectors as some the most spectacular ever published? The answer can be found in a single name... Alex Schomburg!

Sinking ships, aerial-combat, torture devices, and explosions, are all part of a rich patriotic tapestry woven by Schomburg's expert hands leaving the reader breathless! Indelible images of the war years featuring Captain America, the Human Torch, and Sub-Mariner among others, propelled Timely Comics sales sky-high during this period.

Stiff competition was everywhere and each company worked hard to attract and keep their market share. Newsstands were flooded with material from companies large and small, each and every cover competing for those all important dimes! Rising above them all, Schomburg's carefully crafted covers were showpieces whose distinctive look commanded the attention of even the most casual browser.

In today's comic book marketplace, affording Timely war-covers by Schomburg can be a very expensive proposition. Many avid collectors are searching them out daily, absorbing the few available issues. Simultaneously, demand has increased drastically. Prices for these scarce supplies can be daunting, with many in the $200 to $500 range.

By Steve Gentner

JUNE
featuring THE BLACK TERROR, Nemesis of Crim
EXCITING COMICS
10¢
SCHOMBURG
POISON
CANDY BARS
BUY WAR BONDS AND STAMPS FOR VICTORY!

The good news for Schomburg afficionados is that he drew equally striking war covers for Standard/Nedor and Harvey during the same Golden period. Characters like the Black Terror, Fighting Yank, Doc Strange, Pyroman, Green Hornet, Red Blazer, and the Grim Reaper... all confronted the AXIS in the same, dynamic style as their Timely counterparts. And all because Schomburg drew them with the same power and punch!

Some of these exceptional "non Timely" Schomburg classics include:

***Exciting Comics* #39** (Nedor/Standard; Jun 1945) - The ultimate in anti-German propaganda covers, The Black Terror and his teen side-kick, Tim, break in on Nazi "devils", injecting candy bars with poison. Through the window behind them is a smiling Nazi soldier handing the poisoned candy to two starving waifs in a war-torn countryside. In the background, Tim draws a bead on a Nazi with an M1 carbine. This wonderful comic is the quintessential Schomburg war image, yet Guides for $66 in Fine condition!

***Exciting Comics* #35** (Nedor/Standard; Oct 1944) - The Black Terror and Tim drive a stream roller over the top of a Japanese machine gun nest. Guides for $45 in Fine Condition.

***The Black Terror* #7** (Nedor/Standard; Aug 1944) - With machine guns blazing, the Black Terror and Tim attack Japanese pilots in mid air. Guides for $62 in Fine Condition.

***The Fighting Yank* #6** (Nedor/Standard; Dec 1943) - Fighting Yank slams a canopy on a Japanese Kamikaze pilot. Guides for $55 in Fine Condition.

***All New Comics* #11** (Late 1944 or early '45; Family Comics/Harvey) - Red Blazer and Sparky with the Boy Heroes invade a Japanese held Pacific Island. Guides for $85 in Fine Condition.

These "alternative" and usually overlooked Golden Age classics featuring Schomburg's magic touch are bargain priced, especially when compared to their Timely cousins and many collectors in the know often describe them as extremely undervalued! The five mentioned above all guide for less than $100 dollars each in Fine.

Alex Schomburg's attention to detail and his uncanny ability to caricature the enemy drew comic customer's like a magnet. Schomburg's keen eye delivered spectacular patriotic portraits and some of the rockets and torture-devices he created revealed his extensive science-fiction background, which he often brought to the comic medium. We collectors are the beneficiaries of his genius.

A quick checklist of non-Timely titles showcasing Schomburg's genius might include *Black Terror, Exciting, Startling, Thrilling, Fighting Yank, America's Best, Wonder* and *All New*. With Golden Age material quickly drying up, these Golden Age bargains won't be around long. Good Hunting!! ■